

I've Became Able to Do Anything with My Growth Cheat, but I Can't Seem to Get out of Being Jobless

Arc 7 - Mysterious Ruins

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(142) Prologue

In my personal world, My World.

Inside the log house constructed by Pionia, there was Haru and I.

" ... Ma, master ... you can put it in a little more."

"O, okay but it's hard to gauge the right amount."

"It's okay ... I will accept master's all ... ah, so full ..."

"So, sorry. A little bit overflowed ... Does it feel bad?"

"It's a little sticky but it's something from master so it won't feel disgusting to me."

I was relieved hearing that.

But that was my limit. I'd collapse if I released anymore.

Right at that moment, the log house door opened.

Carol entered.

"Ichino-sama —"

" ... Carol ... sorry."

I smiled bitterly while looking at Carol as I showed her what I just released.

"It's oil but three pots is my limit."

"It's okay Ichino-sama, this much is plenty. Unlike cooking oil, not much is needed to maintain fur."

"I see ... thank you for helping, Haru. I couldn't get it in the pot properly no matter how I did it when I was doing it alone."

I was currently using Oil Create to make oil that can maintain Cat Sith fur.

I used all the Silver Vine that Carol procured for the sake of making Silver Vine Wine to entertain the Cat Siths so this was my apology.

The pots that the Cat Siths prepared was unstable so I had Haru help me support them.

Carol covered the pots with tanned leather and wiped off the oil on the sides with a cloth.

“Well then, I’ll be going with these oil.”

“Ah, Carol, I can — ”

I tried standing up but I was unsteady on my feet. I was under the condition of magical power depletion.

“Ichino-sama please rest. Oil Create consumes several times the magical power of Water that creates water after all.”

“Then, I’ll carry them.”

“Haru-san’s hands are covered in oil. Moreover, I also wish to be of use to Ichino-sama.”

Carol smiled widely and left the log house with two pots in her hand.

I was slightly tired so I lied on the bed.

“Then I will go wash my hands.”

Haru said that and was about to leave the room.

“Ah, please wait ...”

I took off my shirt and got topless. Looking at my fairly muscular body compared to when I first came to this world, I once again collapsed and laid face-down.

“Haru ... sorry but could you please keep your hands like that and give my body a massage? Something like ... an oil massage.”

Lately there’s been too much going on and I’ve not had time for skinship with Haru. Carol would probably return so we can’t go into the real deal but I wanted to at least touch a bit.

A person of the same sex or different sex would hate it if they were asked to do that but I believed that Haru would definitely want it too.

However,

” ... Understood, master.”

There was a pause in her reply. Haru’s voice basically doesn’t have any intonation and her expression doesn’t change as well.

However, I could tell since I’ve been with Haru for such a long time. That pause was when she kind of hates it.

To prove that, Haru’s tail was not wagging at all.

“Haru, do you hate it?”

“Ah ... no, I won’t hate it if it is master’s request.”

” ... I don’t want to do something that Haru hates. I will hate it if I found out that Haru acted for my sake but actually hates to do it.”

” ... Er ... I would love to massage master’s body. I can massage master’s back but massaging your stomach would be ...” “Stomach ... ah, it’s because of that.”

I finally understood what Haru hated.

“Sorry, I completely forgot about that. To the beastfolk, petting the stomach means submission right?”

” ... Yes.”

“Then, please just massage my back.”

“Okay.”

For a moment, Haru smiled ... or so I felt. No, she probably smiled. Her tail was happily wagging after all.

“Today my magical power is depleted so I can’t do so but next time I’ll massage you.”

“Yes, I’ll look forward to it.”

Nevertheless, the oil I made sure feels great. Initially, like how Haru described it, it felt sticky but as the massage progressed, it became slippery and had a gentle finish.

Oh no, originally when I was still a virgin, I wouldn’t be able to sleep from the

nervousness but thanks to the magical power depletion condition, I was attacked by a strong sense of drowsiness.

Then, feeling the sensation of Haru's fingers, I fell asleep in my arms.

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"Onii, Onii, get a hold of yourself."

Is this, a dream huh ... I could hear Miri's voice.

When I opened my eyes, I saw Miri with tears flowing from her eyes. However, currently ... she was even younger than when I died.

It was a Miri that was about primary school age.

I wonder when exactly was this memory from? Was it even a real memory?

The location seemed like a narrow path between the buildings at the downtown area. Because I could hear the theme song of the electrical shop that we are occasionally in their care, I could roughly guess the location. However, I do not remember entering such a place.

If that's the case, is this a false memory?

"Onii ... Why did you do something so reckless."

Reckless?

Hey hey Miri, have you forgotten?

I have always been a person who acts rationally.

There's no way I would do something reckless.

Haha, that means this is really a dream.

Looking closely, there was blood spread all around me. Unlike the Otherworld that has healing magic, in Japan with this degree of injury, I might not survive depending on the time the ambulance arrives.

" ... Onii, didn't you promise. That Onii would definitely protect Miri. That you would only protect Miri. Then ... you can't die in a place like this."

Miri looked down with tears falling.

At that instant, I felt as if — an enormous darkness swelled up from her back.

Then —

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I slowly opened my eyes due to the pleasant sensation I was feeling — and saw an angel.

No, it's Haru huh. Damn it, I mistook her as an angel because she was too cute.

Wait, I was lying on Haru's knees.

"Master, good morning. Your hands would become numb if you stayed in that position so I apologize for the arbitrary decision but I moved you to lie on my leg."

"U, okay. Thank you for the meal."

I sat up ... and tilted my head.

I felt like I had some strange dream but — was I wrong?

"Master, Carol came by just now to inform that Stella-san has some business with you and asked you to come to the royal castle once you woke up."

"Stella huh ... okay. Let's go."

Well, thinking to myself that forgetting everything about a dream once you wake up, even if it was an interesting dream, happens often, I stood up.

My body had completely recovered from the tiredness. Yup, all thanks to Haru's knee pillow.

(143) Path of the Demon Lord

A week had passed since the Cat Sith king passed away.

Even now, when we pass by the front of the royal castle, there were still many Cat Siths with their paws together in silent prayer. I could feel how truly loved the king was.

I also wanted to converse more with that person ... or that cat, his large presence was really burnt into my eyes. Since he was actually as large as a mountain after all.

Currently, nobody lived inside the royal castle. It was apparently cleaned every day but it would be a castle without an occupant until the next king has been decided.

Well, it's actually because of the previous king that there's a hole at the back of the castle. Renovation works would be needed after the new king has been decided.

Stella has a house-cum-Silver Vine Wine workshop so the two of them were currently living there.

"Stella-san, a little more, please let me snuggle you a little more! Ah, I can't get enough of this sensation!"

... with Malina.

Malina's lively voice could even be heard from outside the building, she once ... or rather, going by how her shy personality was progressing currently, she used to be bad with interacting with people but she has finally become comfortable with us and could carry simple conversations ... although that Malina's loud voice now entered my ears.

That Malina could obtain the permission to stay in the Cat Sith hidden village solely thanks to Stella's sacrifice.

Since Stella had to bear the brunt of it whenever Malina gets excited.

The voices didn't come from the back but seemed to originate from the

workshop so we arbitrarily entered the workshop.

” ... Malina, quit it nya ... I can’t do my work if you keep hugging me nya.”

“Ah, Stella-san, don’t say such mean things ... see, I’m helping.”

“You are not helping nya. I’m just checking the humidity and temperature now nya. I can’t read the thermometer properly if you pick me up like this nya.”

Malina was hugging Stella to her cheeks while Stella was muttering with a slightly fed up voice.

“Are you still at it ... Malina, it’s about time you stop.”

” ... Ah, Ichino-san, sorry, if you keep looking at me ... I’ll get a little embarrassed.”

” ... I’d love to sit down and hear about the presence of Malina’s sense of shame but ... Stella, do you have business with us?”

“I have two tasks in mind nya ... but firstly.”

“Ah, understood. It’s about time I shut Malina in my world ... as expected, she’s a nuisance right?”

“I’d like to ask you to do so as soon as possible but that’s not what I wanted to say nya ... I’d like you to accept this.”

Stella passed me a small pouch.

I wondered what it was and looked at the contents.

“What, hey, isn’t this a gem?”

“It’s not enough but it’s a sign of my gratitude.”

“But I’ll receive the reward for the request at the guild right?”

As long as I possess the proof of success, I will be able to receive the reward from the Adventurers Guild.

Stella had already paid the Adventurers Guild in Ferruit the reward so if I accepted the reward here, I would be receiving twice the amount.

“It’s not the reward but as thanks for making the Silver Vine Wine nya. Seeing how the King loved it, everyone did their best to prepare it for you nya.”

” ... I see. If that’s the case then I will gratefully accept it.”

I accepted the gem and kept it in my chest pocket.

“Then, what’s the other thing?”

“The King’s — regarding my father’s final request nya.”

” ... Ah, that huh ... sorry, Carol, Haru. Please drag Malina and give the two of us some time.”

“Understood.” “Yes, Ichino-sama. Let’s go, Malina-san.”

“Ah, wait, just a little longer.”

Dragged by Haru and Carol, Malina exited the workshop. Only Stella and I were left there.

Then, I recalled.

The Cat Sith King’s — his final words.

『The Demon Lord — if you meet her, please help me tell her. I am sorry ... 』

There was a possibility that his mind was confused as he was about to pass away.

That’s because the Demon Lord was no longer in this world. Since the hero had already subjugated it.

However — I didn’t think so.

I couldn’t understand the real intention of the King for telling me that. He did tell me that I had the Demon Lord’s scent on me.

I also did not tell Haru that.

Haru yearns for the Demon Lord. I did not want to give her false hope.

However, as it was the King’s final words, I discussed it with Stella.

She seemed to have had an inkling of what was going on and was at a loss as she requested that I gave her some time to think.

Will I hear the answer now?

“We’ll be leaving from the back door nya ... follow me nya.”

“Okay.”

Without going into details, she led me to the back door — the main entrance to the residence and we entered the king-less castle.

Then, going through the corridor, we arrived at a staircase that led to the basement.

“This place is?”

“This is a secret passage only told to the Cat Siths generation after generation nya. Although some Humes know about it too nya.”

“Secret passage ... that King-sama would probably get stuck if he tried to escape though.”

“Nyahaha, that would probably happen nya.”

Stella gave a dry laugh and opened the metal door.

What I saw — was two magic circles glowing in blue.

“Transfer circles ... ?”

I’ve seen them once. That was when I was inside the Intermediate Labyrinth in Florence. Why are they here?

“Does it lead to a labyrinth?”

“Wrong nya. One leads to somewhere near the border of Dakyat to the south while the other connects to a country even further south nya.”

” ... You had such a convenient structure huh ...”

“Well, it’s also a problem that it’s convenient nya. If a certain group of Humes finds out about these, they would only see it as a tool for war nya.”

“That’s probably true ... are you sure you should tell me about it?”

“I can tell Ichino-san with a peace of mind nya. Moreover, Ichino-san also told me your secret so this is an equivalent exchange nya.”

“I’m grateful that you say that but can I tell Haru, Carol and Malina about it too?”

“Of course nya. You can freely use it too nya.”

I see, I'm glad to hear that.

To be the recipient of such trust, acknowledgment and exchange of secrets.

"So, does this transfer circle lead to the Demon Lord's secret?"

"No nya. This transfer circle itself is Demon Lord-sama's secret nya."

Stella remarked. The Demon Lord's specialty was Darkness Magic and Space-Time Magic above all others and its power was tremendous.

When the Demon Lord transfers using Space-Time Magic, the overwhelming strength apparently causes the formation of transfer circles.

It's also known as the 「Demon Lord's Path」. It's normally not announced to the world but apparently many exist throughout the world.

"The Demon Lord visited this village once every couple of years and gave us various things nya. Because it was the friend of the first generation Cat Sith King nya. However, thirty years ago the battle with the Humes intensified nya. The King ... told it to never come back."

Stella shook her head.

"Father always regretted it nya. Forsaking Demon Lord-sama."

"Something like that happened huh ..."

I could understand slightly what the King was regretful of.

But, why did he tell me that? Stella probably didn't know the answer to that.

Even though I couldn't get my answer in the end, I thanked Stella for telling me such an important secret.

And if I use the transfer circle that connects to the southern country, won't we be able to bypass the blocked highway and reach the port town?

Just as I was thinking that. The transfer circle's light intensified.

"We're here, Elise! The Cat Village!"

"We're here, Jofre! The Cat Village!"

The two idiots appeared.

... Hey hey, aren't these people the ones that will most likely accidentally

reveal a secret?

Or rather, the trust towards us is the same degree as towards these two?

I somehow found it hard to swallow.

(144) Idiots who left with the donkey

A familiar boy with red hair and girl with blue hair.

I say familiar but we had just parted ways not long ago. Not even half a month had passed since then.

Self-proclaimed Swordsman, Apprentice Swordsman, Jofre. Idiot.

Self-proclaimed Monster Tamer, Whip-user, Elize. Idiot.

These two whose natural conversation had already reached the realm of a comedian couple had for some reason appeared by using the transfer circle also known as the Demon Lord's path.

Why, just why were the two of them there?

It seemed like the two of them were also thinking of the same thing.

"Eh, there a guy that looks exactly like Jo in the Cat Village. Why is that?"

"Eh, there a person that looks exactly like Jo in the Cat Village. I wonder why is that?"

Ah, a completely unrelated memory surfaced regarding the Cat Sith gatekeepers that talked similarly by slightly changing the nuance of the words.

As I maintained silence, the two of them continued talking.

"If he's in the Cat Village, doesn't it mean Jo is also a cat? What do we do Elize. I don't understand the speech of cats!"

"Eh? So this Jo is a cat. But he doesn't have cat whiskers though? And I also don't understand the speech of cats."

"No cat whiskers? That's true, I didn't notice that. It's a new species! We've did it Elize! We've made a huge discovery! We're going to leave our names in history!"

"Congratulations Jofre! You've did it!"

"What are you saying Elize. I'll be leaving my name along with yours?"

"No, I'm fine. After all, my only wish is for my name to remain inside Jofre."

” ... Elize, if you say it like that, I also only want my name to remain inside Elize.”

” ... Jofre.”

” ... Elize.”

” — (annoyed twitch) Slash!”

I instinctively shot a slash between the hugging two.

” ... Woah! This feeling, it’s the real Jo! What are you doing at a place like this!”

“This is the Cat Village right? Is Jo a cat?”

“A cat without whiskers! A new species?”

“Amazing, it’s a great discovery Jofre!”

“Stop looping your jokes! I am not a cat nor am I a Cat Sith. Wait, if you guys are here, it means that —”

I looked at the transfer circle behind them.

At that moment, appearing with a burst of light from the transfer circle were — the gluttonous donkey, Centaur and the three kids from Ferruit.

“Ah, isn’t it Ichino-aniki! It’s been some time.” Julio waved at me.

” ... Ichino-san and his party is here huh? If they appear in the fights, our king seat would ... ” Sutchino muttered.

” ... The couples reunite ... fufufu.” Milky snickered.

There was an unfamiliar Cat Sith together with them.

Then, it happened when Jofre and Elize grabbed onto Centaur’s reins.

Centaur suddenly charged out of the room.

Jofre and Elize were magnificently caught up in that charge and also left the room.

“Please wait! A, Aniki, I’m sorry for that.”

Julio chased after them.

Then, staring at that happen, the Cat Sith that appeared with the transfer circle together with them thought for a second, “To think of it, I smell food nya. It was definitely enticed by that nya.”

It concluded. Yup, I totally don’t see any problems in that conclusion.

By the way, who is this Cat Sith?

Just as I thought that, I quickly got to hear its name.

“Mikke, why did you return nya!”

Stella glared at the Cat Sith that appeared with Jofre and the others.

“You know him?”

“He’s my younger brother nya.”

“Younger brother!? Didn’t you say you were the only daughter?”

“I am the only daughter nya. But I have a younger and elder brother nya.”

“What words to say to a younger brother who came back after such a long time nya, sister. Well then, I’ll be chasing after Jofre and the others nya.”

“What a troubling younger brother nya ... Well then, I still have one more place to show Ichino-san so let’s meet up with Haru-san first.”

“O, ou ... another place?”

“The labyrinth nya.”

Labyrinth? Eh? Wasn’t the labyrinth in Dakyat the only one?

There was a labyrinth inside the Cat Sith hidden village as well?

“There various reasons for that nya ... Well, the monsters that appear in the labyrinth aren’t that strong and it’s a labyrinth for beginners so there’s not much need to prepare either nya.”

” ... I see, let’s try to dive into the labyrinth then.”

It been some time but maybe I’ll be able to earn some experience?

This past week, I’ve earned experience from practicing swings, gathering nuts and mining but I can’t deny that the efficiency has been bad.

Haru also seemed to have been aching slightly for a battle too.

She probably would like to have battles inside the labyrinth.

I also want to dive into a labyrinth and learn a skill.

However, from clearing a labyrinth, I feel like I can't learn any skill from the Goddess-sama other than Sexual Magic ... or formerly known as Lifestyle Magic.

No, maybe it's just my imagination?

"I'll say this beforehand though nya. The clear bonus for the labyrinth that we will be going to can't be acquired nya."

" ... Eh?"

What does that mean?

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The labyrinth was located at a place about thirty minutes walk from the hidden village.

Incidentally, it was only me, Haru and Stella, the three of us.

Carol had a business negotiation to do while Malina was reflecting in My World for her misbehaviour in the hidden Cat Sith village so they couldn't tag along.

"I certainly do smell monsters. It seems like it really is a labyrinth."

"They have not shown up in my Enemy Detection skill but ... I guess it's true if Haru says so. Stella, you mentioned that the monsters in this labyrinth are weak right?"

"They're weak nya. The Seven Grey Stars ... the Nyanto Six Stars frequently train here nya."

I see ... then, I'll devote my efforts here to raise my Lifestyle Magic again.

Thus began the sixth labyrinth dive.

(145) Jobless level 90

The sixth labyrinth dive.

Haru, Stella and I, the three of us. The interior of the labyrinth was bright like the labyrinths I've been to until now.

That's why I couldn't understand Stella's words of how we won't be able to acquire the labyrinth clear bonus.

I thought that it was perhaps a monster's nest that looked exactly like a labyrinth but an ordinary monster's nest would not have bright walls like these.

For this labyrinth dive, I'll mainly focus on leveling up my non-combat jobs Dancer, Singer and Blacksmith while assigning Samurai as well as insurance.

It looked like this when I checked my status.

Name:	Ichinojo	Race:	Hume
Job:	Jobless Lv89 (1↑)	Dancer Lv1	Singer Lv1
	Blacksmith Lv1	Samurai Lv1	
HP:	206/206 (10+25+23+30+84) (x1.2)		
MP:	192/192 (8+30+40+18+52) (x1.3)		
Phy Atk:	199 (9+12+11+30+104) (x1.2)		
Phy Def:	167 (7+15+14+24+92) (x1.1)		
Mag Atk:	129 (4+20+24+12+58) (x1.1)		
Mag Def:	144 (3+25+27+16+49) (x1.2)		
Speed:	122 (4+40+10+15+52) (x1.1)		
Luck:	66 (10+15+15+10+10) (x1.1)		
【Equipment】			
Cotton Clothes	Hide Shoes	Iron Light Armor	Asclepius's Staff
【Skills】			
「Sword Equip II」 「Slash II」 「Rotational Slash II」 「Swordsmanship Strengthening (medium)」 「Dual Wield」			
【Acquired Titles】			
「Rare Hunter」 「Skill Maniac」 「Job Maniac」 「Labyrinth Conqueror IV」 「The Way of the Sword」 「Peak of Apprentice Magician」 「Peak of Hunter」 「Peak			

of Apprentice Practitioner」「Peak of Pugilist」「Peak of Hammer-user」「Peak of Apprentice Blacksmith」

【Possible Job Changes】

Jobless Lv89 (1↑)	Commoner Lv75	Farmer Lv3 (5↓)?	Hunter Lv60★
Lumberjack Lv14	Apprentice Swordsman Lv40★	Apprentice Magician Lv40★	Peddler Lv6
Apprentice Spearman Lv8 (7↑)	Swordsman Lv60★	Archer Lv1	Apprentice Alchemist Lv37
Magician Lv67 (3↑)	Axe-user Lv1	Hammer-user Lv40★	Pugilist Lv60★
Philanderer Lv13	Magic Journalist Lv1 (6↓)?	Apprentice Practitioner Lv40★	Dismantler Lv1 (15↓)?
Apprentice Blacksmith Lv40★ (4↑)	Alchemist Lv33 (4↑)	Practitioner Lv48	Musician Lv1
Singer Lv1	Dancer Lv1	Artist Lv10	Magic Swordsman Lv12
Fire Magician Lv12 (11↑)	Water Magician Lv1	Wind Magician Lv1	Earth Magician Lv12 (11↑)
Samurai Lv1	Sword Saint Lv1	Gladiator Lv1	Hammer Warrior Lv1

Blacksmith Lv1*

【Blessings】

20x experience point acquisition

1/20 required experience points

*TL:*I had a typo in the previous status page where I wrote Blacksmith was at Lv29 but it was actually Alchemist. The other job levels I re-checked so I have no idea why some of them dropped, especially Dismantler. Also, I won’t be calculating the rise/fall in stats from the previous status page since his stats vary greatly whenever he puts in new Lv1 jobs.*

Making sure Stella can’t hear me, I whispered into Haru’s fluffy ears.

“Haru, I’ve become weaker now so I leave my safety to you for a bit.”

" ... Yes, master."

For an instant, really just for an instant, I noticed Haru's face flushed red.

"What's wrong?"

"It just kind of felt good when master's breath was on my ears."

" ... I see ... thank you for the meal."

Or should I have said 'thank you for providing the meal' instead?

Just as I was thinking that,

"I guess the saying that Humes are constantly sexually excited is true nya ... nevertheless, even though it is a beginner's labyrinth, it is still a labyrinth so I'd prefer if you two are at least a little more cautious."

" ... My bad."

" ... Sorry."

Haru and I apologized straightforwardly at Stella who was glaring at us.

"There's no monsters ..."

"Makes one miss Carol's ability right?"

"No, I didn't mean it to that extent."

Carol's ability is a double-edged sword. Especially since whenever we use her that ability, I would also need to go into full power mode.

At the very least, I can't use her ability to train my lower level jobs.

If by any chance we get injured from that, it would damage all the effort we put into making Carol accept her own ability.

"Master, a single monster is approaching our direction."

Her nose twitched. As usual, Haru's sense of smell is a cheat.

My Detect Enemy skill still have not registered any presence of monsters ... no, it just caught it.

Wait ... there's a lot!

"They are called Flat Rats nya."

“A large number of flat rats appeared — Ichino was surprised.”

I inadvertently muttered that due to the sheer number.

They were rats that looked like flounders.

Because they were flat, cutting down a number of them with a horizontal swing would be difficult.

Looks like Rotational Slash won't be effective.

“For now, 「Slash」!”

Using a Steel Sword, I released a sword wave at the Flat Rats.

Hit by the sword wave, blood splashed from three Flat Rats as they collapsed on the floor and disappeared, leaving a couple of items including magic stones.

However, those magic stones were quickly buried under the large swarm of Flat Rats.

“As expected, magic would be best in this case — ”

” — I'll go next.”

Haru held two swords and charged into the rat swarm.

“Well, the attack power of Flat Rats aren't that strong so Haru-san would be all right on her own nya.”

” ... Stella won't be fighting?”

“I don't really like rats nya.”

... So she hates rats despite being a cat huh?

Similar to a blue cat robot I know of.

“But, that Haru, she sure is motivated.”

Using two swords, she annihilated the rats while mixing in Slashes as well.

“For people like Haru-san, they are usually motivated when it is for the sake of people they like nya.”

... Ah, it's because I said that I would be relying on her.

It felt like it was constantly Haru's turn as the enemy's bite was completely

ineffective.

I also supported by sending Slashes but it looked like she didn't need any more assistance.

Then, after a short three minute intense battle, the remaining Flat Rats fled. The end of the battle was accompanied by the usual level up announcement.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

【Jobless skill: 「XXXX」acquired】

【Dancer skill: 「Moon Walk」acquired】

【Dancer skill: 「Step Exchange」acquired】

【Singer skill: 「Loud Acoustics」acquired】

【Singer skill: 「Sleep Song」acquired】

【Blacksmith skill: 「Blacksmithing」has skilled up to「Blacksmithing II」】

【Samurai skill: 「Katana Equip」acquired】

【Samurai skill: 「Quick Draw (Iaido)」acquired】

【Recipe acquired】

... Eh?

Jobless level reached 90 so I probably learned some kind of skill.

However, that system message was somewhat strange. What the heck is XXXX?

I looked at my skill list but the skill that I should have acquired from Jobless wasn't displayed.

” ... Ah, is it a bug?”

Well, in the first place, learning the skills from Jobless was a bug in itself anyway.

(146) Roo-Kanga

Even after opening my status multiple times, the skill that I should have acquired for reaching Jobless Lv90 was not displayed. For now, I listed the other skills I acquired and arranged them before hiding them from my status list.

Well, the Orc Goddess ... er, Koshmar-sama mentioned that the Jobless job didn't have skills in the first place and that somebody intervened with the system and configured the Jobless job.

Perhaps Koshmar-sama or the other Goddesses intervened with the system once again to fix it.

For now, I convinced myself that the 【Jobless skill: 「XXXX」acquired】 notification I received was a bug from that intervention.

Essentially this meant that I lost one skill but my heart was calm.

If I can't acquire any more skills by continuing to level Jobless, I could abandon the Jobless job without regrets and change my job to something like Sword Saint at the Church and register as an Adventurer in the Adventurers Guild.

I'll finally graduate from Jobless and take my first step into the life of an Adventurer.

... But then, the reason I didn't switch my Jobless job now was because I felt that since I've already reached this stage, it was fine to wait until I reached Jobless Lv99 and see what kind of great title I can get from reaching the Peak of Jobless. Assuming that Lv99 was the level limit.

“Nevertheless, there sure are very little monsters appearing ... ”

“They've most likely fled after their danger signals detected the Flat Rats nya. This place would be safe for a while nya.”

Stella thought of it as a lucky break for us but for me, it was slightly boring. In that previous battle, the fighting was mainly done by Haru and I didn't get to defeat many of them so I couldn't make effective use of my 20 times experience points acquisition. Just the numbers were many so Dancer and Singer reached

Lv12 but Blacksmith only reached Lv8 and Samurai only reached Lv6.

I thought this time I would be able to act as the main fighting force but it's a shame.

Just like Stella mentioned, I could sense the presence of monsters far away but maybe they could sense our presences too as they quickly fled further away.

Well, there'll be the boss when we reached the boss room so I'll satisfy myself with the level ups from there.

After spending half an hour not encountering any monsters, we arrived at the very end of the underground fifth floor which was also the lowest floor of the labyrinth.

"This is the boss room nya."

The door to the boss room was open.

Inside was a brown-haired monster that stood on two legs —

"It's the fighting rat Roo·Kanga nya."

"No, isn't that a kangaroo?"

It was a kangaroo. Yup, the size was about the same as the ones I saw in zoos.

With its hands — with its forelimbs covered with red gloves used in boxing, it repeatedly sent jabs in my direction to provoke me.

There was a belt around its waist and it also had another pair of blue gloves hanging around its neck.

The instant I stepped into the boss room, it was as if the sound of a gong rang out. The kangaroo tossed the blue gloves around its neck towards me.

Of course, the boxing gloves bounced off the barrier that separated the boss room and the corridor and didn't reach me.

However, I understood its intention.

It was probably asking for a match with gloves on.

There's no way I would go out of my way to fight my opponent in his own ring

... I'll just end it with a Slash here. Just as I was musing that,

"Stella-san, could Roo•Kanga perhaps be an initiation boss?"

"Initiation boss?"

"A monster that exists as bosses in certain labyrinths. The common characteristic is that they request for special fighting methods and a job will be released if you could win."

So there are such kinds of monsters. I didn't know that.

"Exactly nya. If you win the fight by wearing gloves, the Boxer job will be released nya. However, if magic or other weapons are used, the job would not be granted nya."

"I see, a no weight limit, no time limit, weapons ban one-on-one battle."

I'll switch my job to Pugilist if it gets risky. Thinking that, I entered the boss room, undid the strings, fit the gloves and asked Haru to help me tie the gloves.

Throughout that time, the kangaroo stared and waited for us.

It was wary but it didn't seem like it would perform a cowardly attack.

Even though it's an enemy, it is certainly praiseworthy.

The same time the strings on my gloves were tightened, the door to the boss room closed.

That meant in order for the door to open once again, either we defeated this kangaroo or all of us get annihilated.

Naturally, I don't intend to lose.

I slammed the gloves on my fists together and showed a smile.

"Very well, I'll have a match with you."

When I stepped forward, the kangaroo began shifting left and right.

Those movements showed that it had technique.

It wasn't just a mere kangaroo — I'll show it respect and call it by its official name, Roo•Kanga.

I've lived rationally until now (or that has been my intention). If I played by

the books, I should probably use long-ranged attacks like Slash to deal damage to it.

However, this time I wanted to try having a serious boxing match.

“I’m not called Jo (by a group of idiots) just for show!” *(TL: Reference to Ashita no Joe, a boxing manga)*

I immediately dove into Roo·Kanga’s chest and punch! punch! as if trying to bore into it but Roo·Kanga evaded them with light steps and returned with a counter jab.

However —

(Evasion Step!)

Like Roo·Kanga, I also evaded it with a light step.

The skill I acquired from Dancer Lv10 was suddenly useful.

“Amazing nya! Neither of them is letting the opponent’s attack reach them nya!”

“As expected of master, it looks like master is enjoying the battle.”

While Stella was excited, Haru watched the fight with composure.

Ah, it’s getting quite fun.

Just as I was thinking that, Roo·Kanga distanced itself from me and kicked the wall.

I initially wondered what was it doing but,

“You’re more proficient in kicking rather than punching ... you’re telling me that it’s kickboxing?”

Roo·Kanga silently nodded to my question.

... I was slightly wary of Roo·Kanga’s kicks but I had thought its main attacks were punches. However, it would probably hurt if I get kicked once I let my guard down.

” ... I see, then I’ll also fight seriously.”

Holding respect for Roo·Kanga, I replied.

Then I should repay respect with respect and respond to seriousness with seriousness.

I changed my Singer job to the Pugilist job that was reaching the level limit.

My status immediately jumped.

“Well then, I shall fight seriously. I pray that you give me a good fight!”

※ ※ ※

The fight was one-sided. Naturally, it was my side.

In addition to being the boss for a labyrinth geared towards beginners, Pugilist was originally a job suited for fist fights.

At the final moment, the strike Roo·Kanga put its whole body into connected with my left cheek but my counter punch caught Roo·Kanga’s cheek.

After the punch, Roo·Kanga collapsed on the spot.

It didn’t stand back up.

It was my win —Roo·Kanga took off its gloves with its mouth and with its right forelimb — or rather, with its right hand, it took off its belt and handed it to me.

However, before I accepted the belt, Roo·Kanga’s body began to disappear and it and the belt became particles of light together with the boxing gloves on my hands.

What remained were a magic stone, a bright red glove meant for boxing and —

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

【Job: Boxer is now available】

Experience points and a new job.

” ... Roo·Kanga. That was a splendid fight. I would have liked to tame you if I was a Monster-user.”

As I muttered a few words,

“Ichino-san, it’s impossible to tame labyrinth monsters nya.”

Stella coolly retorted.

(147) The Seventh Goddess

After retrieving Roo·Kanga's remains, the boxing glove, into my item bag, the back room — the door that led to the Goddess statue room opened with a heavy sound. Stella said that it was impossible to receive the labyrinth clear bonus here but it looked like I could still have an audience with the Goddess-sama without any problems.

I thought to myself but when I entered the back room, I unconsciously frowned a little.

"

I hesitated to say a word.

The Goddess statue was there. Certainly, no matter how I looked at it, it was a Goddess statue.

However, I didn't know how to start. The sculpted Goddess Statue was a depiction of an intellectual woman wearing glasses.

She held a book in her hand and it unexpectedly resembled the Ninomiya Kinjiro statue. *(TL: Ninomiya Kinjiro's statue shows a child holding a book to study while carrying firewood on his back and is commonly found in front of elementary schools.)*

I digress a little but the Ninomiya Kinjiro statues originally erected in front of all elementary schools had been removed. Due to reasons like encouraging smartphone use while walking or praising child labor. Now that I think about it, among the light novels I read while I was in Japan, there were also reincarnation stories where using smartphone while walking was the cause of death so it looked like it was regarded as a dangerous act.

At that time, Miri said 'Is Onii against the decision to remove the Ninomiya Kinjiro statues? If that's the case, I could try my best to contrive a ploy to reinstall the Ninomiya Kinjiro statues in all of the schools in Japan?' with her hands spread open in a tone that didn't sound like she was joking. She was expressing her intention to do so with both her hands.

After that, when I heard that in a certain school there was a statue of Ninomiya Kinjiro sitting while reading, I recalled commenting to Miri that I felt the changing era from his appearance and the topic on Ninomiya Kinjiro ended for our family. I dismissed her words at that time as a joke but I occasionally pondered if Miri was actually serious. Even though there's no way she could be serious.

Why did I digress?

That's because I was waiting for someone to say something.

"... Who ... is she?"

"Yeah, like Haru said, who is she? There are six Goddesses and I have seen all the Goddess statues but this Goddess wasn't among them?"

Koshmar-sama and Torerul-sama who gave me my growth cheat ability. Libra-sama who appeared in my world. Setolance-sama who granted Suzuki his blessing. And Goddess Minerva-sama who I heard of from Libra-sama. I don't know the name of the remaining Goddess.

"Like master said, the Goddesses are Setolance-sama, Koshmar-sama, Torerul-sama, Minerva-sama, Crile-sama, Libra-sama."

Haru always answers my doubts. It looked like the last remaining Goddess was called Crile-sama.

"This revered person's name is Metias-sama. The Goddess of Future and Knowledge nya. It is said that Metias-sama was the one who granted the Cat Siths our knowledge and Cat Siths believes in monotheism toward Metias-sama in the Goddess faith nya."

"Wait a minute, Metias-sama? She's also a Goddess?"

"Yes nya."

"Then why isn't it passed around?"

"I don't know nya. But, Metias-sama certainly existed before seven hundred years ago nya. All academic Humes most likely also believed in her nya. Despite that, since seven hundred years ago, Humes and the other races forgot about Metias-sama nya."

” ... Did something happen seven hundred years ago that made the originally seven Goddess-sama become the six Goddess-sama now?”

“That’s wrong nya. Metias-sama was removed and Torerul-sama became the new Goddess nya. Almost all of Metias-sama’s labyrinths changed into Torerul-sama’s labyrinths nya.”

” ... Then, why is Metias-sama’s Goddess statue in this labyrinth?”

“I don’t know nya. But, I do know that the Demon Lord was involved nya.”

“The Demon Lord?” “Demon Lord-sama?”

Haru and I spoke at the same time.

“That’s right nya.”

... The Demon Lord also influenced this place too huh?

Rather, Stella likely brought us here because it was related to the Demon Lord.

I was also curious about how Torerul-sama replaced Metias-sama but maybe I should ask her in person?

But I might not get an answer from that lazy Goddess-sama.

Then, Haru, Stella and I gave our prayers to that Metias-sama Goddess statue.

Naturally, there’s no way my prayer would reach —

※ ※ ※

Next thing I know, I was at the Goddess space. But Haru and Stella weren’t there.

Instead, there was a single girl.

Either she didn’t notice me, or she noticed but didn’t react, she gently stroked the Goddess statue of Metias-sama.

“What a pity, Goddess Metias ... I didn’t expect this to be your end for a Goddess said to be the Goddess of Knowledge. Despite this, would you still say that you knew this would happen?”

The silvery long haired girl spoke to the Goddess statue of Metias-sama.

She was an extremely beautiful girl but for some reason, she also felt extremely familiar.

“According to your will, I have received your power. However — despite all that, it won’t appease my heart. What awaits me in the future is ...”

She pulled her hand from Metias-sama’s statue and clenched her fist.

I couldn’t tell what she felt or thought at that time.

But, she smiled as if something was lifted.

It felt to me that ... sorrow and kindness were shown in those eyes.

“But, I promised. I’ll properly protect those children. I stake it on my name Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei ...”

She said that as she flipped her jet-black mantle and left.

Then, without anybody around, I —

※ ※ ※

When I opened my eyes, the Goddess statue of Metias-sama was there.

” ”

To my sides, I saw that Haru and Stella were still praying.

I didn’t really know what that scene just now was.

However — I was not as optimistic as to think that it was just a dream.

Perhaps ... that scene I saw was something like Metias-sama’s lingering desires — I suddenly felt dread after thinking that.

That’s why I once again placed my hands together.

(... Please enter Nirvana without regrets.)

Even I thought that I was being silly but if by any chance, Metias-sama read my heart and found that I was reciting ‘evil spirit begone’ in my heart, I might really be cursed.

I returned to the surface.

Then, the next day.

Events that made me think that I really was cursed by Metias-sama happened to us.

(148) Leaving the Cath Sith village

During our journey back, the aftermath of the flat rat massacre was still visible so we escaped the labyrinth without encountering any monsters. Although it was a little regretful in terms of experience points, I don't really like rats and I got to unlock the Boxer job so I would say it was a success.

We stayed in the village for a week because it took time to obtain permission to enter the labyrinth as it was the first time non-Cat Siths entered it. Stella complained that it would have been approved in an instant if the King was still alive.

We've complete what we had to do in the village so when I told Stella that we would be leaving the village the next day, Stella was a little down before she smiled and said "Then, we will have a farewell party nya. We'll all have fun together nya."

"I have to tell you Ichino-san nya. Even though you obtained the Boxer job from defeating Roo-Kanga, you will need a high-level Priest to change into that job nya. Jobs obtained from initiation monsters are different from regular jobs nya."

Stella informed me. I would have preferred to have been told that beforehand but it was different in my case.

(Yup, no problem.)

I tried swapping Pugilist with Boxer and it changed without any issue.

Looked like there was no blind spot for the Job Change skill of Jobless.

After that, we left the labyrinth and we met those guys.

"Jo, this way, let's drink together!"

"Jo, here! Drink with us!"

Jofre and Elise were having a drinking spree with the Cat Siths.

It looked like they hit off with the other Cat Siths while we were diving into the labyrinth.

Julio, Sutchino and even Milky were there and it looked like all of them were drinking too as their faces were red.

Only Centaur didn't touch the alcohol. The Cat Siths were tapping Centaur's body with their paw pads as they fed it tons of fruits.

"In this world, from what age can one begin drinking?"

"There isn't a set age for it. One can drink once the surrounding adults accept it but most people begin drinking from around 15 years of age. Since there are rumors that one will not grow taller if one drinks alcohol."

"I see ... then I can't let Carol drink yet."

"Master, Carol is 17 years old."

"To me, Carol is still a child until she reaches 18 years of age. Furthermore, in my country, it is forbidden to drink before the age of 20 so if possible, I would prefer if Haru doesn't drink as much as well. If you want to drink no matter what, please only do so when the two of us are alone."

I sounded like a controlling failure of a man but I would rather die than let other guys see Haru in that condition.

"It's terrible, Elise. It looks like Jo can't hear our voices."

"That's true Jofre. I guess it's true that we must speak in cat language when in the Cat Sith village?"

"It's terrible, Elise. I only know 'nya' or 'nyan' in cat language! Moreover, I don't even know their meanings!"

"What can we do, Jofre. Ah, but we can understand the conversation between Jo and Haru?"

"That's right! In other words, we've already mastered the cat language? Let's open a cat language school!"

"That's a great idea Elise! If that's the case, we must first compose a school song!"

"Let's gather students to sing the school song! It shall be Loreleis!"

The two were in high spirits.

Loreleis are creatures that lead sailing ships to their ruin so if they used them, the students they gather would all be ruined. But, the two of them would be wasting their time teaching cat language (they can't use cat language in the first place) and they can really only lead the students they gather to ruin.

I wanted to just ignore Jofre and Elise but looks like I can't do that as well.

"It's not cat language. I was just regularly ignoring you two."

"I see, that's relieving. By the way, why is Jo here?"

"For business. What about you guys? Didn't you all depart to clear the rubble blocking the highway?"

"That was our intention but we met Chino and Mikke."

"Chino ... ah, Sutchino huh?"

"Yes yes. Mikke told us that the person to become the next King would obtain a huge reward so we came here. Since a five-man party is needed to compete in the fight to determine the next King."

"I see, that's terrible."

Mikke was probably the most terrible of them.

I also heard of the battle for the King position from Stella.

The fight would be two weeks later. Cat Siths who wish to become King can fight along with five subordinates regardless of race.

"Will Jo compete too?"

"No, we won't be. It would be a different story if Stella wanted to fight to be King but she apparently won't compete."

Stella rejected the path to becoming King.

She said that she wanted to make the Silver Vine wine that the King praised to be tasty with her own hands this time.

"We plan to depart tomorrow. Apparently, there is a transfer circle that connects to the other side of the landslide."

"I see. I wanted you to cheer us on for our fight but it's a shame."

“Be well, Jo, Haru. We will never forget you guys.”

Elise phrased it like it was a permanent farewell. I’m certain that we would meet these two again soon.

I couldn’t help but have such a premonition.

Then, we joined up with Carol who was negotiating price reductions at the market with a crying Cat Sith merchant, recalled Malina who was reflecting on her actions in my world and enjoyed the party with Jofre and the others.

I could no longer tell if it was a farewell party for us or a welcome party for Jofre and gang but even so, it was a party where everyone laughed.

Then, the next day —

“Stella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-san, I will definitelydefinitelydefinitelydefinitelydefinitelydefinitelydefinitely come again!”

Hugged by a crying Malina, Stella said with distant eyes, “I understand so hurry up and leave nya.”

Words like that of a wife who discovered her own feelings even though the husband’s feelings didn’t change.

Jofre and the others were having a hangover so they didn’t send us off.

Carol was also doing something in My World as she wanted to arrange the goods so the only ones there were me, Haru, Malina and Stella.

“I will deliver the requested goods to the Feruite guild nya. It should be deposited in Haru-san’s guild certificate in about a week nya.”

Regarding the harvesting request we took from the guild, we obtained nothing but the stone dropped from the spirits so I entrusted them all to Stella.

“Sorry for troubling you.”

“Don’t let it bother you nya. I had been in your care a hundred times more nya.”

“Nah, I enjoyed it too. Farewell.”

I waved while Haru bowed and Malina was painfully reluctant as she looked

back countless times as we entered the transfer circle.

Then —

【Skill 「XXXX」 activated. Forced transfer activated.】

I heard some strange system message and I suddenly felt worried.

In order to expel that anxiety, I looked at the sight before my eyes.

Surging waves, white sandy beaches, it felt like a tropical country.

“What a beautiful coastline. The port town seems near ... eh?”

I was along the coast. But —

“Eh? Haru? Malina?”

Haru and Malina who were supposed to be with me were missing ... and the transfer circle that was supposed to be under my feet was not there.

Why?

The transfer circle is supposed to be a measure that transports one from one transfer circle to another.

(I see, it's under the sand!)

It's possible that the transfer circle was buried under the sand.

I thought so as I dug the sand with my hands.

I dug and dug and dug.

But, I didn't find any transfer circle.

Then, the waves surged and water flowed into the hole I dug.

There was sand in my nails and seeing my fingertips torn, I sighed.

Using Petite Heal, I treated my fingertips.

Looked like the tide was rising.

Damn it, at such times, I should make rational decisions.

Nothing would come out of staying here.

(For now, I guess I'll walk along the coast...)

Facing the ocean was a lush and dense forest but I didn't intend to enter it. I could see with my eyes that I would get lost.

I retrieved parchment, brush and ink from my item bag. They were items I purchased from Feruite to raise my Magic Journalist level. I left a message for Haru on the parchment.

I seldom wrote using this world's characters but thanks to the Common Language Grasp skill, I could write fluently.

『To Haru and Malina. I will walk towards the South. From Ichinojo. Please follow me if you see this.』

I rubbed the parchment on my arm multiple times before tying it to a branch.

With that, Haru would probably be able to find it with her sense of smell.

Then, I looked at the sun. If the morning sun was at the water horizon, I determined that South would be to my right so I began walking.

I walked alone along the coastline.

I had a bad feeling.

Usually, bad feelings come true.

But, I continued walking alone.

Then — I saw it.

The parchment I fastened.

Seeing that, I was convinced.

This was an island.

(149) Young girl caught in forced transfer

It happened way too abruptly.

Just moments ago, I was in the Cat Sith village but before I knew it, I'm was on a deserted island.

I thought perhaps I really was cursed by Metias-sama but I realized that wasn't true.

I heard it directly before I was transferred here.

【Skill 「XXXX」 activated. Forced transfer activated.】

This was definitely related to the mysterious skill I learned after reaching Jobless Lv90.

However, why was I transferred to a deserted island?

Nevertheless, I must escape from this island. There will not be any doctors here if I fall ill and more importantly, it's clear that Haru and the others would be worried.

Normally, what I must do would have been to secure drinkable water and food but I wasn't worried about that.

I have an item bag after all.

I have food and drinkable water enough to last a couple of months inside. I could create water using magic as well but there was no need to do so right now.

If that's the case, the first step would be to plan my escape.

What I can do immediately would be — I gathered driftwood, split them apart using my dismantling knife to make firewood and, “Oil Create!”

Poured oil on the gathered firewood,

“Petite Fire”

And set it alight.

This way, I could make smoke.

If boats passed nearby, they would come to my aid ... hopefully.

Even if I made a boat to escape, I didn't know where I was.

I made a sundial by placing a piece of wood vertically. It was probably noon.

I walked slightly in the direction of the forest, sat in the shade of a tree and ate dried meat that I took out from my item bag.

(The temperature is hotter so maybe it is further south ...) I mused as I ate the dried meat. It was originally bought as snacks for Haru so it was quite tough.

Nevertheless, after patiently chewing the meat, the flavor of the meat and the saltiness spread throughout my mouth.

While chewing the meat, I set about thinking.

Now then, if I was going to be living on a deserted island, I would have to train up jobs like Fisherman, Carpenter, and Cook.

I wonder what must I do to become a Cook?

Ah, Haru or Carol would tell me the answer at times at this.

While thinking that, I suddenly realized.

Even if I was at my wit's end, I forgot about the most important thing.

" I'm a damn idiot!"

I inadvertently cried as I stood up.

"My World!"

I opened the door to my world.

And when I entered the door, it was my world.

There were living facilities like the log house, work shed and warehouse lined up, in the distance, there were fields, lakes and tea plantations, and even further in the distance, Fuyun was eating grass.

A slight distance away, under the large King's Silver Vine tree, Carol and Pionia were drinking black tea while sitting on a mat. It looked like they had not noticed me.

I had forgotten.

If I'm stranded, it means that Carol would be stranded as well as I was the only one capable of opening the door.

I felt apologetic towards Carol.

For dragging Carol, who dreams of becoming a merchant like her parents, into this mess with me.

This might have been a punishment for me. For enjoying the benefit of my continued insistence on using Jobless.

But if that was the case, I want to be punished alone. Like being the only person who was transferred to this island.

I didn't want to involve Carol.

"Ah, Ichino-sama, sorry, I was enjoying my tea. I'll immediately prepare one for Ichino-sama."

Noticing me, Carol stood and said she would prepare tea for me.

That kindness was a little painful for me at the moment.

"N, no ... Pionia, please prepare my share of the tea. I have something important to tell Carol."

"Something ... important?"

"Yeah, it's pretty bad."

Carol's expression turned grim at my words and I hesitated to explain what I had to say next. However, resolving myself, I explained the current situation.

After I finished speaking, Carol faced down.

"I see, that's troublesome. It would have been alright if it wouldn't worry Haru-san and Malina-san though."

But her reaction was contrary to my expectations.

"Wa, wait, aren't we the ones in trouble? Thinking of the current situation, Haru and Malina should have been transferred to the regular location so the problem lies with us."

"Is that so? Well, it's terrible but at the longest, it would probably take at

most a month for us to return.”

” ... Eh?”

“Firstly, Ichino-sama is worried about our current location but Carol likes books on astrology so Carol would be able to tell our current location by seeing the position of the stars.” *(TL: Just a reminder, Carol speaks in third person so in this case, it is still Carol who is speaking.)*

” ... Seriously? Bu, but, as expected, it would be tough if we have to row a ship with just the two of us.”

“That’s true. There, Ichino-sama and Carol can use the power of Temptress to gather the sea monsters for Ichino-sama to level up and acquire the Monster-user job. Then, we can tame the sea monsters and let them pull the boat. Normally, I’ve heard that it would take up to 10 years to become a Monster-user but if Ichino-sama is serious, I believe it can be done well within a week.”

“I see ... No, but food ... I have them in my item bag so it’s fine but if we hit a storm, as amateurs to voyages — ”

“In such cases, we can evacuate to this world along with the tamed monster. The abandoned boat would drift away so it would be better to prepare a spare ship. Right, we would have to make a pool of sea water for the sea monster to live in too.”

“We speak of boats so simply but is it really that simple to make a boat?”

“I will make that, master.”

Pionia passed me the black tea she brewed for me as she expressionlessly transformed her arms into a saw and an axe as she said that.

That’s true, as she made a splendid log house all on her own, making a boat would probably not be a challenge for her.

..... Er.

“So there’s ... no problem?”

“Hmm, it would be the issue of whether we can return to the continent. From Ichino-sama’s words, we are in the Northern hemisphere as there isn’t much of a time difference either.”

“Time difference ... ah, I see. It was morning before we transferred and after being transferred, it was still morning so we are close to the continent longitudinally.”

“Yes. We would most likely reach the continent if we travel north. Carol can only make a detailed judgment after seeing the stars but — before that, what we must do now is — ”

Carol paused for a beat before saying.

“We have to investigate the reason why Ichino-sama was transferred to this location. There’s also a possibility that Ichino-sama was transferred for no reason but if there is a reason, it should be on this island. Carol would first like to investigate the interior of the forest.”

” ... Oh, ooo, I see.”

Like my younger sister Miri, it seems like all girls who have young appearances are geniuses.

Carol’s suggestions all hit the bull’s eye so I felt a little embarrassed for panicking.

(I’m sorry for Haru-san and the others but this is a chance for me.)

“Hn, Carol, did you say something?”

“No, it’s nothing. Now then, Ichino-sama, let’s first go outside!”

(150) Seen at the depths of the deserted island

Entrusting the construction of the boat to Pionia, Carol and I returned to the coast.

“It’s been a long time since Carol last saw the sea ... it’s beautiful.”

“Carol has been on a journey all this time after all.”

“Yeah. But, even as a peddler, there’s not much freedom as we have a determined trade route so it doesn’t mean we can travel the world. Carol’s father and mother passed away quite some time ago so, to be honest, Carol only has vague memories of seeing the sea.”

“I see ... ”

I couldn’t say anything more.

The pain of losing parents and the fact that the reason lies with oneself, it is also a past and present that I carry.

It was still only afternoon so Carol’s power as a Temptress couldn’t be used yet and we couldn’t see the stars yet either.

Hence, we first entered the forest.

“At the very least, we should check what lies at the depths of the forest.”

“You’re right ... wait?”

Perhaps because Carol was together with me now, my head had cooled down a little and I could recall a skill that could be used at that time.

Hawk’s Eye: Other Skill【Hunter Lv60】

Allows vision of the ground from above in the sky.

At maximum, the height can be set to a height of 1 kilometer.

If I used that, I would be able to check the surrounding landscape.

“Carol, I’ll use Hawk’s Eye so please look after my body for a bit.”

I activated Hawk’s Eye.

My field of view alone steadily rose higher and higher.

Then, after rising for some time, I checked the surroundings.

The island was naturally surrounded by the sea and even though I could look out over a further distance than before, I still could not see a single shadow of another island.

The island we were in looked almost circular.

The island's diameter was about 2 kilometers?

When I looked below my feet, I saw the figures of myself looking down while standing as well as Carol.

Then, I shifted my line of sight and looked at the forest.

A dense and overgrown forest — however, the central portion was somewhat strange. There was a place without any trees at all.

Due to the cover of the other trees, I could not make out what was there but I was curious.

I couldn't tell what was there in the end even after I raised my altitude even more.

Cancelling Hawk's eye, my line of sight changed and returned to the white sandy beach.

"Ichino-sama, how was it?"

"There is an empty space without any trees growing in the center of the forest. I think there might be something like a spring there so I want to go have a look."

"Carol agrees."

"Carol, thanks. After getting abruptly thrown into an uninhabited island, I've been acting quite pathetic."

Getting suddenly thrown into an unknown space was also similar to what happened when I died after getting kicked by a horse.

I panicked quite a bit that time as well.

When I came to this world, it was Daijiro-san's note that abated my panic.

And then, this time, it was all thanks to Carol that I could regain my calm.

"So Ichino-sama will be flustered like that too. But Carol is the one who has been helped."

"No no, at the very least, this time I could see the prospect of escape because Carol acted calmly."

It's embarrassing but if I was alone, I would not have thought of the means of escape Carol came up with no matter how much time passed.

No, of course, I would realize it sooner or later.

But I did truly feel that it was thanks to Carol.

However, Carol shook her head.

"Carol could remain calm because Carol believed that Ichino-sama would definitely work something out. If Ichino-sama wasn't here, Carol would probably cry incessantly and not take any action?"

"I don't think that would happen? Carol is always level-headed —"

"Ichino-sama, have you forgotten? When Carol first met Ichino-sama, Carol wanted to die? It was from the depths of Carol's heart. But, Carol did not have the courage to suicide. That's why Carol did not refuse Oregeru-sama's request to enter the labyrinth and Carol wanted to die by doing so. It was not absolute but Carol definitely does not see Carol's action at that time as calm."

"Carol, that is in the past. The Carol we know today is the most knowledgeable among us, a person to consult to and a partner we can rely on. I seriously rely on you."

"... Carol feels a little embarrassed hearing such words."

Carol smiled shyly with a 'Ehehe'.

"Well then, traveling to the center of the forest ... Carol, be careful. I sense the presence of monsters everywhere. In general, in an uninhabited island like this that is likely not even listed on the world map, it is guaranteed that there would be hidden treasure and monsters that protect it ... there might even be a

hidden labyrinth.”

Of course, that is speaking in terms of games but this world is more or less linked to games.

The possibility isn't zero so it would be better to maintain some tension.

“I don't know about treasures but the possibility of monsters and labyrinths is high.”

“Eh? Serious? By right, the aim of labyrinths is to gather and purify miasma but if it can't completely purify it then the miasma will transform and appear as monsters right?”

For that reason, there is a need for adventurers to enter labyrinths to defeat monsters and completely purify the miasma in the labyrinths and for that sake, there is a Goddess Statue at the deepest part to bestow adventurers with a bonus.

I believe that is the belief that is going around.

That's why I didn't think there would be labyrinths in places where there are no humans.

“That is true. But, if there are strong monsters that mark the labyrinth as its territory, then the story is different. Monsters would kill each other and purify the labyrinth.”

“So humans aren't the only enemies for monsters, it's even possible for monsters themselves to be the monster's enemies?”

Well, thinking about it, it is unthinkable that in the absence of humans, monsters would hold hand in hand and live harmoniously.

Even on Earth, without humans around, or rather, precisely when there are no humans that the food chain of kill or be killed will occur.

The possibility of labyrinth huh ... if that is true then embarking to conquer the labyrinth might not be a bad choice.

If it is a labyrinth managed by Koshmar-sama or Torerul-sama, I would be able to directly talk to the Goddess-samas and ask them. If I can do that, we could tell where we are without having to wait for night time. If that happens, it

would become considerably easier to escape from this island and I might even obtain some information on my new skill from the Goddess-samas.

Actually, even if it isn't the two of them, I might be able to meet the other Goddesses I am acquainted with like Libra-sama and Setolance-sama.

So the probability is 4/6, over 66%.

Even if it is the other Goddesses, Carol and I would be able to level up and get the clear bonus.

Well, everything is dependent on whether there is a labyrinth there, no point counting my chickens before they hatch.

"Okay, shall we enter the forest?"

Saying that, I took my sword out of my item bag, attached it to my waist and drew the sword.

"Let's go. Carol, follow behind me."

"Yes, Ichino-sama."

Thus, we traversed into the forest as I cut through the grass while sometimes trampling down the grass.

It was meant to make it easier for Carol to move as well as mark out the path so we won't lose sight of our return path and to be sure, I occasionally used Hawk's Eye after advancing a certain distance to confirm our position and it took us 5 hours to reach the center of the forest.

It was already evening and inside the forest, it was practically night time.

Normally, I would have chosen to either return to the shore or return to My World.

However, I could not restrain my curiosity towards the place I saw with Hawk's Eye.

Located there was — something close to a spring, what I imagined initially.

I didn't expect something like that to be there.

"Ichino-sama, this is the first time Carol sees it personally."

“I see. It’s also the first time I’ve seen it after coming to this world.”

It’s something that can be said to be rare in Japan but practically everyone would have seen it multiple times.

However, it is bound to become a tourist attraction.

Located there was warm hot water — a hot spring.

“A natural open-air hot spring ...”

Steam wrapped around the deserted hot spring.

Clearly, the temperature has been set wrongly ... now then, what do we do now?

While thinking that, I took out a cloth from my item bag and prepared to enter the hot spring.

(151) Steam-san, it's your turn now

Measuring by eye, the water temperature was 55 degrees. However, measuring temperature by sight is a little awkward, as the only thing that can be judged is the amount of steam and that it's a measuring method that can easily be overturned just by using dry ice. Actually, the amount of steam changes with humidity, wind speed and etc so there's also a need to measure the surrounding temperature first but I believed that my prediction was roughly correct.

That's why, I had to lower the temperature by at least 10, no, 15 degrees before we could enter the hot spring. I really wanted to toss dry ice into it.

Thus, I immediately used that.

“「Ice」!”

I tried using the 「Ice」 skill I learned after reaching Ice Magic II. A huge icicle pierced the surface of the hot spring and floated up.

I described it as huge but its length was only about 3 meters.

Using that alone would be like pouring water on a hot stone.

“Fumu”

At this rate, even if I continuously used 「Ice」, it would take quite some time.

If that's the case, I used that skill instead.

“Magical Power Boost!”

Super boosted Ice Magic, to describe it in words, it was as if I released a spell capable of annihilating a company of enemy troops. I felt it rob me of my magical power from the depths of my body.

It was a contradiction to see that magical power accumulating when my magical power was being snatched.

I condensed the power within my hand.

If it's now, if it's now, I can use it!

“Boooooooooost Iceeeeeeeee!”

【Ice proficiency level increased to Lv2】

I collapsed as I heard the message that my ice proficiency went up. My magical power had been depleted.

Maybe because I was rushing to enter the hot spring, I forgot to switch my main job to Magician.

That’s why I immediately fell into magical power depletion.

Even so, the power was overwhelming.

Not only was there a huge piece of ice floating in the center of the hot spring, there was a thin layer of ice stretched across the water surface. Just like an ice skating rink. It was glittering.

“I, I overdid it ...”

Or so I thought but the ice on the hot spring surface quickly melted and steam once again rose up.

... Oh?

I crawled closer to the hot spring and placed my hand in it.

Water temperature 43 degrees. It was slightly hot but it’s safe to enter.

The ice chunk in the center was still there so maybe the temperature would fall to about 38 degrees in the end?

“I, Ichino-sama, do you really want to enter a hot spring that badly?”

“Precisely by doing this much that it would feel better when I enter — Sorry but could I enter first?”

I said as I somehow got up to and maintained a sitting position before I started taking my shirt off.

” ... Er, could Carol enter the hot spring now as well?”

“Carol ... you.”

... That’s right, I knew about Carol’s feelings.

“I see, Carol wants to enter the hot spring too. But, I have to be the first to

enter the hot spring after all — in Japan, Miri was always stealing the first place.”

Miri liked hot springs to quite a considerable extent. Just like a certain young lady from Genji.

“No, I wish to enter the hot spring together with Ichino-sama.”

Ah, hahaha, so Carol wants to enter together huh.

A male and female entering hot springs together, that’s already a mixed bath.

Mixed bath huh, that’s the dream of most men. A man’s romance.

Now that I think about it, last year, I went to a spa town with Miri. At that time, I heard that there was a mixed bath nearby (But the dressing rooms were separate and men and women could enter together but there was a boundary inside the hot spring that the genders could not cross) and I sneaked away from Miri and secretly went to the mixed bath (Like a crocodile lying in wait for young women to enter).

After waiting for about an hour, I thought I heard the voice of a young woman and turned around to see.

“It’s the young woman Onii wanted to see. How is it, are you excited?”

Miri appeared saying those words.

I wanted to scream “What’s the romance in going to mixed bath with a younger sister!”. I wanted to scream “If I want to, I can do so anytime I wish at home!”. Even before those, I shouted, “I can’t enter a mixed bath with a younger sister who hasn’t even gotten married!” and completely denying what I’ve been doing, I immediately made my younger sister leave the mixed bath. Incidentally, when we left the hot spring, there was a ‘temporary closed’ signage put up at the hot spring house which explained why there weren’t any women or men entering. It’s a pathetic story whereby both the brother and sister overlooked the conspicuous sign.

The next day, in that spa town, I heard a story of a girl who put in a lot of money to book an entire hot spring for three hours to enter the hot spring together with the guy she likes. I cursed that enviable man. As expected, to fully

enjoy a mixed bath, unlike a guy like me who travels with his younger sister, it would have to be a Riaju-like guy so after that incident, I no longer held any expectations towards mixed baths.

After that long reminiscence, I shook my head.

“No no, that would be bad. Entering the hot spring together.”

“Why?”

“Usually men and women enter separately for hot springs right?”

“But, Ichino-sama said Carol was still young so, er, you said won’t do e ... ecchi stuff.”

” ... I did say that.”

I don’t remember saying it so explicitly but I certainly did say something similar before.

“Would Ichino-sama will feel guilty if he sees Carol’s naked body and er, do weird things?”

“Definitely not! I will not do something Carol doesn’t feel comfortable with.”

“Then, there shouldn’t be any problems entering the hot springs together right?”

” ... Eh? Really?”

Once she put it that way, I realized that it didn’t seem that there would be any problems entering the hot spring with Carol.

” ... There won’t be any problems entering the hot springs together?”

“No problems. Carol will help Ichino-sama wash his back.”

” Let’s enter together?”

“Yes♪”

Seeing Carol nod with a smile, I somehow could not wipe off the feeling that I had made a huge mistake and that I was talked into it by Carol.

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I took off my clothes and entered the hot spring.

Naturally, I did not forget to use the Lifestyle Magic 「Clean」 on myself as a substitute to showering before entering the hot spring.

I also applied 「Clean」 on Carol while she had her clothes on.

“It’s a strange feeling to clean the body before entering the bath.”

She said but the purpose of a hot spring is to not only cleanse the body but also for relaxation.

The temperature of the hot spring was lowered to about 41 degrees. It might have been a little hot for Carol.

Putting that aside — I looked down at my feet. From the way the rocks were organized, the hot spring did not look natural no matter how I looked at it.

Even though I say that, there were no traces of anyone living there and there wasn’t any path either.

However, there was something strange.

There wasn’t much debris floating on the surface of the hot spring.

Normally, a natural hot spring like that should have leaves and such floating on the surface. I wonder just what was the reason behind it?

As I was lost in thought.

“Ichino-sama, how is the water?”

“It’s a little hot but it feels good.”

I turned back to reply to realize my enormous mistake — Carol was there without a single thread on her.

This, isn’t this quite bad?

If handled poorly, won’t this enter the adult’s section?

The sole saving grace was that steam-san was still doing his work properly even now.

(152) The things that appeared from within the hot spring

I'm troubled. I've been yearning for such a long time to enjoy myself in a hot spring ever since I've come to this world but why did it turn out this way.

I was sweating unpleasantly.

"Ichino-sama ... what's wrong?"

"A ... Ah ... the view there just seems quite nice."

I said as I turned to look at the opposite direction from Carol.

"The view there is beautiful? Carol can see nothing but the same forest stretched all around us."

"Hahaha, Carol, you don't understand. Scenery can also refer to the shadows created by the position of the Sun and sunlight. The view of the forest can change along with the four seasons."

"Ichino-sama, the trees in this forest are not deciduous trees but evergreen trees so I don't think there will be many changes."

"Oh, is it possible to infer the latitude we are in by the position of the Sun?"

"Carol apologizes, that method does certainly exist but Carol does not know the method to infer latitude from the position of the Sun."

I could hear her voice directly beside me.

With the sound of water splashing, I felt something hit my back.

It was Carol's back. Yup, I think it's probably her back. Even if her chest is equal to nothing, I believe I won't mistake her back and stomach.

"Ichino-sama, could you look at Carol?"

" ... I'm ... a little embarrassed."

"Even though you always look at Haru-san."

" ... No, well, that's true but."

She touched on a painful topic.

“But I probably won’t be able to look at even Haru directly in this environment.”

After I said that, Carol laughed happily.

Her small back shook slightly.

” ... Fufufu, Carol feels a little relieved. So Ichino-sama properly sees me as a girl.”

“Carol has always been uneasy. Ichino-sama came from a different world. Carol wondered if Ichino-sama would one day return to your former world. Your younger sister ... Miri-san was it? She’s still there in that world. That’s why I thought perhaps you would return to your former world for your younger sister’s sake.”

” ”

I couldn’t say that I won’t return. But I did feel that I might not return.

However, I planned to meet Daijiro-san not only because I wish to thank him but there was also the faint desire to hear if there is any way to return to Japan.

Of course, I do not plan to ignore Haru and Carol’s feelings but I also feel that I can’t leave Miri there alone.

I felt that I at least had to let Miri know that I was all right.

“Haru-san definitely feels the same way too. That’s why Carol is a little worried about Haru-san now. Seeing Ichino-sama suddenly disappear, Carol does not know how is Haru-san right now.”

” ... Haru is strong. She is most likely investigating why I disappeared. Maybe she has already found the reason.”

“Ichino-sama, Haru-san is strong. But do not over-rely on her strength. If you want to rely ... please rely on Carol a little too ...”

I looked at the blue sky and replied.

“I’m always relying on Carol. I do nothing but rely on Carol’s kindness. Sorry, I’m a useless master.”

“No, Ichino-sama is absolutely not a useless master!”

Carol stood up and shouted. Water splashed around slightly.

Then, her arms wrapped around my neck.

She was hugging me from behind ... the slight swell of her chest was touching my back, causing me to involuntarily straighten my back.

“Ichino-sama occasionally says that you are hopeless but that is absolutely not true. Carol ... we will not fall in love with a hopeless person. Haru-san does not love Ichino-sama just because you are strong and Carol does not love Ichino-sama just because you saved Carol’s life. Even Malina-san most likely does not travel together with us just because Kanon-san told her to or because you two are from the same world.”

” ... Carol ...”

“Carol will wait. Until Carol turns 18 years old or until Ichino-sama says it is okay.”

Saying that, Carol separated from my body.

Then, I heard the sound of Carol leaving.

Is it okay to leave it like this?

Thinking that, I once again heard the sound of Carol approaching. I instinctively turned around.

“Carol! I — !”

Looking around, I saw,

“Uki?”

In front of my eyes was a large white monkey. It was a 1-meter tall goblin-sized monkey.

“Carol became a monkey!?”

“No, Ichino-sama, it’s a monster!”

Carol hid her chest with a towel and shouted.

What, damn it, I didn’t notice the monster approaching due to the

pleasantness of the hot spring and the tension from just now.

I immediately stood ready — eh?

The monkey did not appear to have any intention of attacking me as it walked by and soaked in the hot spring.

Just like the Japanese macaques that love hot springs.

” ... Ichino-sama, look there!”

” ... Eh?”

Near the ice, I saw a bizarre scene.

Monkeys were springing out from within the hot spring.

There were probably close to 50 of them.

They all did not seem to wish to fight me as they merely enjoyed the hot spring.

“A hole where monsters pour out from ... ?”

Nevertheless, it would be dangerous if I was attacked there so I left the hot spring.

The monkeys completely ignored whatever we did and they didn't seem to want to attack us.

The monkeys increased slightly after that but it stopped short of 60. It looked like they won't increase any more than that.

“Is that by any chance the entrance to the hidden labyrinth?”

“It's certainly a hidden passage but I have not heard of labyrinth monsters not attacking humans. Although it is possible to determine it by killing them and observing if the corpse remains.”

“That's not a good enough reason to attack them and more importantly, I don't want to dirty the hot spring with blood.”

“Carol feels that the order of the reason is reversed but Carol also agrees.”

“Then let's ignore the monkeys ... and try diving in?”

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. But in this situation, we don't know the

depth of the tiger's cave nor the value of the tiger's cub. (TL: It's the idiom, 'If you don't enter the tiger's cave, you will not catch its cub'.)

Nevertheless, I knew something. Although, even knowing that you know nothing can also be counted as knowing something.

I knew that there was something inside the cave and that I was sent to this island for some reason.

If that reason could be found inside the cave, I must then enter the cave.

"Carol, enter My World. Since it isn't a good idea to either have you wait here or to return to the beach."

"Understood. Please call Carol once you reach the other side of the cave."

I used my Hikkikomori skill to open a portal to My World and let Carol enter.

Then, I entered the hot spring with my shoes and clothes on while holding my sword. The monkeys did not stir at all even after seeing my rude behavior.

Perhaps due to the effect of the ice chunk, the water was less warm but still at close to 40 degrees, but I didn't have the leisure to stay in the water for long.

Looking at the location the monkeys came from, although I didn't notice it earlier, there certainly was a large pit there. Like a theatre basement.

I took in a deep breath and dived into that hole.

(153) Monster-less labyrinth

Since it was a hot spring, it really stung my eyes when I dove in with my eyes open. No matter how much I trained my body, the pain felt by the eyes could never be negated. Although I do know that pain is the body's danger signal and it should not be negated.

Furthermore, even though the ice was cooling down the surface, perhaps the effects weren't conducted deeper down as I felt it steadily get warmer.

After diving vertically down all the way, I found something like a cave tunnel. It had taken roughly 40 seconds. I felt that I still had about 1 more minute left to dive so I decided to peek into the tunnel.

— There's light shining out of it?

A faint light. It seemed like the monkeys came from there.

Looking at it closely, I could faintly feel the flow of water.

Using my Detect Enemy skill, there didn't seem to be any monsters.

It was steadily getting hotter.

I made my decision and entered the tunnel.

And then, the upper portion of the tunnel led to a hole and it connected to an underground space.

" ... I'm surprised ... to think that there's such an amazing place underground."

Stretched underground was an orchard. There were trees heavily laden with fruits like bananas and papayas.

The walls and ceiling were emitting a faint pale light so I guess they used that for photosynthesis.

And there were pipe-like objects around the trees. Hot water was probably channeled through those pipes to adjust the room temperature?

Even though I was in a southern country, it wasn't a place warm enough for bananas to grow naturally.

I wonder if the monkeys live here?

“Petite Wind —”

I plucked a coconut with wind magic, opened a hole with a pocket knife and drank a little.

It was coconut juice.

“Petite Ice”

I used Ice Magic to freeze the surface just a little and tried drinking. It was cooling and extremely delicious.

Nevertheless, what exactly is this place?

The metal pipes were clearly man-made but the walls and ceilings indicated that it was a labyrinth.

But even though it was a labyrinth, I couldn't detect any presence of monsters.

The mystery remained but I guessed that it was safe to call Carol out.

I took off my wet clothes and kept them in my item bag, took out new clothes and wore them before casting 「My World」.

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“It's amazing, this fruit called a banana is extremely easy to eat.”

Carol put the thick and long item into her mouth and chewed.

If it was made into a video, this scene might have been repeated continuously but I couldn't show it to anyone.

I ate a mango while having such idiotic thoughts.

I roughly ate the fruit and passed the seed to Pionia for now.

When I explained to Pionia the vinyl house-like system here, she eagerly said that it was most likely possible to achieve in My World too. I wonder if Pionia is actually the type that likes inventing and crafting? *(TL: Vinyl house system refers to the heating system that uses liquid tubing hidden underneath floorboards or wall panels.)*

“I wonder where does this hot water flow from?”

“Don’t touch it, it’s hot enough that you’ll end up with a burn.”

“Temperature that is only hot enough to cause burns would just be regularly hot after all.”

While having such pointless question and answer,

“It might be circulating the hot spring. If that is true, there may be a boiler somewhere.”

I thought it was a natural hot spring but turns out it might be an artificial hot spring.

Labyrinths are originally an apparatus to accumulate and purify miasma so the possibility of this being a labyrinth is high.

However, the fact that there was no monster presence was strange after all.

“What do you think Carol?”

“There has not been any sign of human entry for at least 10 years. Normally an island labyrinth like this would be regularly purified by the Church’s Labyrinth Knights but perhaps this labyrinth’s monsters are being exterminated by those monkey-sans.”

Said Carol. Monsters would spill out of a labyrinth when the miasma within the labyrinth overflows but given that there weren’t any monsters there, the speculation that the monkeys were not labyrinth monsters holds.

“Perhaps those monkeys were trapped in here. It’s not definite but it would be impossible that they could not swim and return to land before the ice cooled down the hot spring ...”

“I guess so. There are no traces of monster leftovers or excrements so it has probably been absorbed by the labyrinth.”

Ah, labyrinths are convenient in that aspect. Because the fruit trees were photosynthesizing, the place won’t have a lack of oxygen too. It’s not to the extent of My World but this place might be the most optimal place to hole up.

“Those monkeys didn’t seem that strong so if the monsters can be defeated

by the monkeys then there's no worry. To be safe, I'll go investigate until the end but what does Carol want to do?"

If there was a boiler, I would definitely want to take it with me.

If I could do so, then I might even be able to create a hot spring inside My World.

"Carol will accompany you."

"I see, then, let's go."

"Since Ichino-sama has to look for the reason that you were forcefully transferred here."

... Ah, now that she mentioned it, we're here to investigate that.

I was too excited about the hot spring that I completely forgot about it.

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As expected, there were no monsters in the labyrinth.

Moreover, compared to the layered structure we've encountered for the labyrinths to date, this labyrinth spread out in a flat plane.

"... There's nothing."

"Yeah. Would this long passage be the last?"

Carol was sketching the map of the labyrinth.

Just like the grid paper mapping I did for old dungeon games.

Apparently, that mapping was regularly performed in labyrinths without maps.

"Ichino-sama has been relying on nothing but Haru-san's olfaction until now after all."

That's true. Haru's nose is able to tell if we had passed a certain location before or if a lot of people had passed through there before so there was no need to do this kind of mapping.

"Looking at this map, this place seems to be an artificial space after all."

"Maybe there would be something like a hidden door."

Carol doesn't know about it but last time there was a hidden door when I went to save Norn-san. It looked like a regular wall but just like a hologram, there was nothing when I went to touch it.

Maybe there was something similar here.

As we have not encountered a boss room until now, perhaps the boss room or staircase was inside that hidden space.

While pondering that, it happened when we entered the long passage to investigate for now.

— 『Gaban!』(TL: *Slam!*)

Along with that loud crash, a wall appeared at the end of the passage. Not only at the end. When I turned around, there was also a wall at the place we entered from.

“We’re trapped!?”

Just as I had that thought, the walls started shifting closer.

Moreover, at a considerable speed.

“Ichino-sama, this —”

“Shit, I’ll break the walls!”

I pulled out my steel sword from my item bag.

“『Slash』!”

And released a sword wave with it.

However —

“No way, there’s not even a scratch. Even though I have the confidence to even crush rocks.”

“Ichino-sama, labyrinth walls are indestructible!”

“Oh right, I forgot!”

I immediately place the sword horizontally.

To serve as a rod.

I also took out other long objects from my item bag.

The walls closed in to about 50 cm when it stopped. Rather, it was still shifting slightly but the steel sword had become a jamming rod.

“Shit, it’s narrow — Carol, are you okay?”

” ... I’m okay ... since I don’t have anything to get stuck with.”

Carol touched her own chest and said somewhat regretfully.

“Chest size doesn’t matter at all now ... More importantly, wall! Why don’t you give up already! Is there no system that automatically opens when a foreign object is caught like for elevator or train doors!?”

After I shouted that, the steel sword could no longer withstand the pressure — and broke.

“” Shi— !””

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The next instant, the walls were almost stuck together, leaving just a minute gap.

Then, the walls returned to their original position and there was nobody left moving in that passage.

(154) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 1

Ichinojo was missing after the transfer circle was activated.

Even though they should have transferred around the same time, only Haurvatat and Malina were sent to the hidden transfer circle.

From then, Ichinojo didn't appear.

Naturally, they transferred back but Stella said that Ichinojo had definitely transferred.

Haurvatat's complexion turned pale after discovering Ichinojo's disappearance. Her olfaction also definitely sensed that Ichinojo used the transfer circle but Malina who was beside her said.

"Don't tell me, a warp accident ... it certainly happens in science fiction novels but transfer circles should have been used in everyday life for a long time in this world ... or perhaps it was a forced transfer by the interference of a higher dimensional life form? If it was a one-way type of transfer like a black hole or white hole then it's no wonder that Ichino can't return."

She continued to list words that Haurvatat have no understanding of.

However, at that time, Haurvatat slapped her own cheeks.

She must remain calm.

That was her role that Ichinojo once gave her. Even if the party was panicking, he wanted only her to always be calm.

That lit the flame of reason in Haurvatat's heart.

"Status Open"

Haru muttered nervously and then breathed a sigh of relief.

"Firstly, master is alive."

Haurvatat looked at her own status and said.

Ichinojo has a skill called 「Second Job II」 so Haurvatat could have two jobs assigned.

Haurvatat believed that if Ichinojo died, that status would quickly be canceled.

Ichinojo was alive.

However, she didn't know where he was.

Seeing Haurvatat act calmly, Malina also started thinking calmly.

" ... It's Ichino so he'll probably be alright. Carol and Pionia are with him. The worst scenario would be not knowing where they are and where to find food."

"That's right, Carol would definitely support master and keep him safe ... but, it is not definite that master is in a place that he can return on his own. We will have to prepare to go to him from here."

" ... That's true. Firstly, Stella, could you investigate if similar incidents happened with this transfer circle before in the past?"

"O, okay nya. I'll investigate immediately."

Stella said and ran off on all fours.

"I will, for now, transfer to and fro with the transfer circle. If I go missing, it will confirm the possibility that the transfer circle is going berserk."

"Please do so. I will search the surroundings. Transfer circles fundamentally can't transfer that far so I will search by smell if master transferred to a nearby location."

Thus, Haurvatat and Malina took separate action.

However —

"I tried transferring to and fro 500 times but the transfer circle didn't go berserk. Tomorrow, I'll try transferring the same time Ichino transferred but I think it would probably be meaningless."

"I checked but there has not been any incident with the transfer circle nya."

"No fresh scent of master has drifted in from anywhere. Even though I would be able to detect over a kilometer in distance if it was upwind — "

The search for Ichinojo ran aground on the first day.

“The last resort would be to put up a search request at the guild.”

“If we do that, we would be taken into custody and the existence of this transfer circle would be known to the public.”

The master has gone missing but the slaves who were together with him were safe. The reason for his disappearance was the malfunction of a secret transfer circle.

It would definitely turn into an issue. In the worst case, the two of them would be suspected of confining Ichinojo.

And once they get apprehended, they would not be able to look for Ichinojo.

“There’s only one method nya.”

Stella announced.

“In our Cat Sith village, we have a treasure that only the King is allowed to use nya. Inside that, there is a magic tool meant to look for people nya.”

“So we can just ask to use it.”

“As I said just now, only the King can use that treasure nya. Now, without a King, nobody is able to use it nya. If Maru-oniichan becomes King, he might use it for you but Mikke would definitely not do so nya.”

It would change drastically depending on who becomes King.

Listening to the circumstances, Haurvatat resolved herself.

“Stella-san, could you become the King?”

“Nya? I — ”

“Please. We will help you with the little ability we have.”

“ ... Alright nya. But the fight to determine the King is a 5 versus 5 round robin match nya. Malina doesn’t seem that strong and we still lack people in the first place.”

“Could we ask Jofre and the other to cooperate?”

“Mikke has already registered them so that’s impossible.”

Stella shook her head.

Then they would have to settle on somebody from the village as fighters. People capable of fighting.

“What about the Nyanto Six Stars?”

Haurvatat asked once again.

“The six of them registered as one team nya. One of them is a reserve fighter. The remaining soldiers who are able to fight have to work as security for the main event and they probably owe Maru-oniichan favors so they won’t fight for us nya.”

” ... If that’s the case, let’s go look for fighters then.”

“The deadline for registering is the day after tomorrow so you won’t make it if you go to Ferruit nya. The town of Korat would be nearer from here nya. Haru-san should easily be able to cross over the valley at the border nya.”

“Stella-san, could you show me the way? Also, Malina please remain in the village. As long as we don’t have a carriage, I would have to run with Stella-san on my back.”

“Don’t be reckless. Ichino would be sad if anything happens to Haru.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll just push myself a little.”

Haurvatat said as she carried Stella and ran out of the village.

The width of the valley that marks the border was about 9 meters but even with Stella on her back, Haru was able to leisurely leap that distance.

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Then, the two of them arrived at a town in Korat.

As Korat was an agricultural country, even though it was a town, it had a slightly strange feature where 90% of the area was used for fields.

In addition, as cows and horses were treated as important family members who help out with field work, they mostly don’t eat beef or horse meat. The meats they consume only consist of the birds that eat the produce from their fields. Although that was all according to what I heard from Carol.

“Where is the Adventurers Guild located?”

“ ... This town doesn't have such a building nya. If there was, I wouldn't have made the trip all the way to Ferruit to look for Adventurers nya.”

“That's true now that you've mentioned it.”

If that's the case, where would they find strong individuals?

It happened when she was thinking that.

She discovered a nostalgic scent.

“No way —”

Haurvatat wondered if her nose was not working properly.

That was because the two scents shouldn't be present there and moreover, those two scents shouldn't be together.

Nevertheless, Haurvatat prayed for that miracle and ran towards it.

That scent led her to the food hall in the town.

“They're really here ...”

Two girls who she knew.

The two of them were also surprised to see Haurvatat.

“Eh? Why is Haru-san here?”

“Long time no see. Although I say that, it has only been three weeks?”

They spoke while still showing their surprise at seeing Haru.

And then, they were ... relieved to see Haru.

“It's been a long time — —”

Standing there was the girl from the vigilante squad in Florence she once met.

“Norn-san.”

And the actual master of Marina.

“Kanon-san.”

It was those two.

Haurvatat didn't know why Norn, who was supposed to be in Florence, and Kanon, who said she would be traveling north, were there but she said to the two.

“Please lend me your strength.”

(155) Girl from the artificial labyrinth

It was as if a security room, no, like a control room.

Countless monitors were displaying images from within the labyrinth. A black haze-like mass transformed into the figure of a large centipede. After that centipede moved a certain distance, she pressed a button. When she did that, a stone wall fell from above the centipede and crushed it.

When the stone wall returned to its original position, the centipede no longer existed.

She performed that task indifferently.

She – was a girl.

The girl with white hair that seemed like it was about to touch the floor removed her hand from the button, spun her chair round and round and that was when our eyes met.

She looked like a girl of about 14 years of age.

“ ”

Her expression froze. Or rather, she was expressionless in the first place. And that expression didn't change even after seeing us.

For now, I greeted her first.

“Sorry to bother you, my name's Ichinojo.”

“ ... How?”

Now then, how shall I explain this?

Immediately after I thought we would be crushed by the wall, I used my Hikkikomori skill to escape to My World with Carol and closed the gate directly before the walls slammed shut.

And when I immediately opened the gate again, it led to this place.

In the event that the exit location was blocked by something, the exit gate would be opened at the closest possible location.

I figured that place would probably be the undiscovered area in the map.

“Leaving that aside, I didn’t think there would be such machinery here ... Are these magic tools?”

“978-4-7753”

“Eh?”

“Please answer. I will not recognize you as master unless you give the correct answer.”

She said with a monotonous voice.

It looked like I had to give a number corresponding to those numbers but naturally, I didn’t know the answer.

“In the event that people apart from master enters this room, they will be treated as guests. Do you have any questions?”

“ ... So we won’t be treated as enemies. Were you the one who tried to kill us using the walls?”

“Yes. It is my task to deal with individuals who enter the labyrinth but it is also my task to welcome those who reach here.”

So it was like that. I considered the possibility that it was a trap but hmm, yeah it probably won’t be a problem.

“ ... Are you human?”

“No, I am Work Doll number 417. I have no name.”

Doll? She?

She looked like she was actually living. But I do know of an existence like her.

Pionia.

She was probably a similar existence as Pionia.

“Erm, I’ll bring my companion but you won’t attack right?”

“People who have entered this room before or those who accompany them are not targets for my attack.”

“Okay. Please wait for a moment.”

I opened the door to My World and called Carol out.

“978-4-7753. Please answer. I will not recognize you as master unless you give the correct answer.”

The same numbers came out just like before but naturally, Carol couldn't answer it.

And then Carol was also recognized as a guest.

“What is this facility? Though it looks like a labyrinth?”

“This is an artificial labyrinth created by Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei.”

“A labyrinth created by the Demon Lord? Aren't labyrinths constructs made by the Church?”

“The Demon Lord creates artificial labyrinths in places outside the influence of the Church like here.”

“Then, is your master the Demon Lord?”

“No.”

She shook her head.

“It changed 96512 hours ago.”

“Er, how many years ago was that?”

“About 11 years ago.”

So it was slightly before the Demon Lord's death.

That means somebody came to take over this labyrinth before the Demon Lord's death?

“Who is your master?”

Carol asked.

“I cannot give that answer to guests.”

She replied. It looked like there was something like a confidentiality protocol.

“Why did that person become the master of this place?”

“I cannot give that answer to guests.”

“Is your master a man? Or a woman?”

“I cannot give that answer to guests.”

417 showed her intent that she could not answer any of Carol’s questions.

It looked like information disclosure on the current master was highly regulated.

I tried to change the angle.

“What is your favorite food?”

“Grape.”

That was a joke but apparently, she likes grapes.

I took out grapes from my item bag.

It was grapes meant for winemaking so Japanese people like me don’t really like it due to its milder sweetness but it was grapes that can’t be eaten normally in this world.

“Could you answer the question if I give this to you?”

“Sorry but no.”

“ ... I see ... haa, you can have it.”

I placed the grapes in front of 417.

417 looked at the grapes slightly before she plucked a single one and placed it in her mouth.

It should have seeds inside it but she chewed it whole and swallowed.

“Hey, it’s tough calling you 417 so can I call you by another name? It’s a strange feeling to call a person using numbers.”

“That command is only executable by my master.”

“Master ... so I can do so if I answer the numbers you gave out just now?”

“Yes.”

Haa, so I have to solve the code.

There are usually hints to answering such ciphers and the answers can only be

derived from there but I had not gotten my hands on any hints on the way here.

Perhaps Haru who was close to the Demon Lord might have known something.

“I wonder what exactly is the answer.”

I murmured to nobody in particular.

“It is 1417-3.”

417 answered.

“ ... Eh? 1417-3?”

“Password verified. From now, ownership shall be set as Ichinojo. Setting complete.”

“ ... I’ve become your master?”

“Yes, master. Please order me to do anything.”

417 answered monotonously.

... This girl is way too broken.

“As expected of Ichino-sama. To be able to discover such a trick.”

“No, rather than a trick, I think it’s more like a bug ... erm, your current ... or rather, who was your previous master?”

“Daijiro-sama.”

“Daijiro-san!? Seriously? Daijiro-san was your previous master?”

I was astonished to hear the name of my benefactor here.

That person is seriously amazing. He was the companion of the hero who defeated the Demon Lord, he created doujinshi and he was the former master of 417, in other words, he conquered this artificial labyrinth.

“What did Daijiro-san instruct you to do?”

“To raise the temperature of the hot spring and set it as 55 degrees 96500 hours ago.”

“ ... Did Daijiro-san not want anybody to enter?”

“Also, he entrusted this to me.”

She pressed a button and a part of the floor opened.

Then, the item that appeared was – a beautiful crystal ball.

“Daijiro-sama left a message so I shall convey it now. 『This jewel is meant to seal a certain someone so it must be sealed here. If you chance upon seeing this jewel, I beg of you. Please re-seal it. 』 ... That is all.”

I couldn't not comply after hearing such a request.

After I requested 417 to re-seal it, the jewel was once again sucked into the floor.

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Winding a few minutes back in time.

Miri and the others were having a small victory celebration at a diner located in Korat.

“No way, I didn't expect that Prince-sama to be the mastermind.”

“It seemed to me that there was quite an obvious hint though.”

“ ... We're in the middle of our meal so could you please quiet down?”

Norn who was slightly excited, Kanon who was calm and Miri who was slightly in a bad mood.

They had just resolved a large incident in the country of Korat that might have shaken the world but it was a long story so we will talk about it some other day.

It happened when Miri was feeling bored of the cooking that consisted solely of vegetables.

She sensed it. A slight fluctuation in the flow of magical power to the south – her sealed power was being released.

However, after about three minutes, Miri's power was sealed once again.

Those three minutes were sufficient. She was able to confirm the location of the seal.

“ ... Norn, Kanon, I'll give you 1 week of free time. A place that I must go to

suddenly came up ... also.”

Miri created keys of darkness and pierced their chests.

“Eh?”

Norn raised a voice of surprise but Kanon obediently accepted it as if she understood what it was for.

“I’ve sealed your hearts such that you can’t talk to others about me. Just in case, to make sure. If that fellow comes by, Kanon, deal with him properly.”

“Yes. Have a safe trip, master.”

“Don’t be too wasteful with the money.”

Miri reminded them as she placed down money for their current meal and meal expenses for a while before leaving the diner.

Then, she summoned Fenrir and ran towards the south.

“It’s been a long time, Norn-san, Kanon-san.”

Haurvatat entered the diner just 30 minutes later.

(156) Sign of resurrection

“I see ... are there transfer circles or any transportaion of that sort here?”

“Yes, Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei used Transfer Magic to reach this island while Daijiro-sama used a magic tool called an airship to come here.”

I asked 417 if there was any way to escape from this island but neither ship nor transfer circle was present on this island.

Daijiro-san actually created an airship in this world ... he’s seriously impressive. Isn’t that a vehicle that can only be obtained at the final stages in role-playing games?

“Oh right, 417 is a mouthful so ...”

“Only master can set a name. Would you wish to set one?”

“Ehh ... ah, since I don’t have any naming sense. 417 ... Yoina ... no, Shiina then.” *(TL: He’s just joining the numbers 417 in Japanese, 4 = Yon or ‘Shi’, 1 = ‘I’chi, 7 = ‘Na’na)*

I just read the numbers as they were but,

“It’s basic but it is easy to call so Shiina, yup, it would be Sheena if I match this world’s language. Is it alright?”

“Yes, that’s wonderful, Ichino-sama. I think it is a wonderful name.”

“Understood. My name shall be set as Sheena No.3.”

“Why number 3!?”

“Famiris·Raritei-sama and Daijiro-sama also set Sheena No.3’s name as Sheena so I appended the number 3 to distinguish between them.”

“Serious ... they all named you Sheena? But, just now you said you don’t have a name.”

“That is because the two of them called me Sheena but they did not set my name as it.”

I see, so they just called her that without going through the trouble of setting

her name.

Uwa, it's slightly embarrassing.

But it is kind of strange to hear the name Sheena No.3, as if she is a different person compared to number 1 and 2.

"Erm, Ichino-sama. I have a question, why did everyone call her Sheena?"

"Eh? That's naturally because 417 is read as Sheena ... wait?"

That's wrong, 417 is only read by Japanese as Sheena.

Americans would definitely not read 417 as Sheena. Only the Japanese language reads 4 as 'Shi' ... I think.

What does this mean?

I understand the reason why Daijiro, a Japanese person, called her Sheena but why did the Demon Lord, a resident of this world, call her that?

"It is unlikely ... to be just a coincidence. Hey Sheena. Could you tell me what you know about the Demon Lord?"

"I apologize. Even if you are my master, I cannot reveal information on the previous master."

" ... I see, no, my bad. Since the Demon Lord should be something like a parental figure to you. You won't be able to betray him/her."

"No, it is because I have been ordered so. Originally, I would, by all means, want to expose every single detail about that selfish arrogant Demon Lord and even include some half-truths. He/she abandoned Sheena No.3 for over a hundred years after he/she made me."

" ... Eh?"

I doubted my ears when I heard those bitter words coming from the expressionless Sheena No.3.

I thought for sure she was a robot-like being.

"We would be troubled as to how to judge the information if you included half-truths in them."

Said Carol.

No, I don't think that is the issue here though.

Those words showed a completely opposite image of the Demon Lord I heard from Haru, a completely different feel.

Well, I guess personality can change over the span of more than 80 years?

Now that I think about it, just how old was the Demon Lord?

After that, I asked her about the location of the island this facility was built on.

We were on a solitary island to the south of the Western Continent we were previously on, or to the west of the Southern Continent and the nearest continent was 300 kilometers away.

300 kilometers ... it is a somewhat feasible distance by boat.

After hearing our detailed position, it seemed like Carol was thinking of an escape plan.

Haa, so I still don't know the reason why I was transferred here.

During that time, monsters appeared on the monitor — and the monkeys that were at the hot spring just now came by and defeated the monsters.

It seemed like the facility wasn't only made up of traps as it also utilized the monkeys to exterminate the monsters.

"It's strange. It's unthinkable that monsters would appear at such a pace for an island like this."

"The magical beast that devastated the coastal waters of the seas around this island has been sealed. Because of that, it became easier for miasma to accumulate and monsters to appear. If Sheena No.3 wasn't here, there is a high possibility that this island would become a monster's nest." *(TL: It's unclear if it is a single beast/monster that has been sealed or a bunch of them)*

She had an expressionless face as usual but somehow I felt that she definitely had a smug look on her.

"Although that seal would be released within another 48 hours."

” Eh?”

“Even after Demon Lord Famiris•Raritei-sama was defeated, the seals she constructed at the four corners of the world that serves as a foundation for the barrier had remained strong but a part of that barrier has been unsealed so the monster of this island is reviving. That’s why I believe that if you wish to leave this island, it is better to do so soon. If not — ”

She said.

If not, we would definitely be annihilated by the revived monster of this island

...

(157) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 2

After listening to Haurvatat's circumstances, Norn and Kanon looked at each other and nodded. They had decided to assist Haurvatat.

And they were heading towards the Cath Sith hidden village.

"Kanon-san, it's been a long time nya."

"Long time no see, Stella-san. Are you still buying Silver Vine Wine?"

"I don't need to for now nya. I've gotten my hands on the best Silver Vine Wine nya."

Since Stella and Kanon were acquaintances, they were engaging in small talk.

For both Norn and Kanon, simply helping because they have time was just merely an excuse. Norn was worried about Ichinojo while Kanon was worried about Malina. Furthermore, more importantly, Norn wanted to find Ichinojo and reunite him with Miri.

"We have to quickly find Onii-san and eh?"

When Norn muttered that, her mouth moved without any sound which gave her a shock. Then, she tilted her head in puzzlement as she couldn't understand what had happened.

She was unsure whether she couldn't voice the words, or that she really didn't speak at all.

"Norn and I are currently kind of working for a new master and due to the contract with that master, we cannot say anything in relation to that master."

"I see. But if that is the case, is it alright for you two to come without consulting your master?"

"Yeah. Since our master told us that we could move about freely for a while."

Kanon said as she laughed happily.

Even though she definitely shouldn't have been in a joyous state, she was

really laughing happily.

“But I think it would be better if I don’t meet up with Malina. She finally attained independence after all.”

“I think it will be fine. Malina has grown after all.”

“Really? It’s okay if that is the case. So we are now headed to the Cat Sith village?”

“Yes. Please hold on tightly.”

Kanon didn’t press any further as she was pressured by Haurvatat’s expressionless face but she couldn’t imagine that Malina, lover of cute objects and especially cats, can maintain her calm in front of Cat Siths. And her expectations were generally correct.

“Well then, let us hurry.”

Saying that, Haurvatat carried Stella on her back and ran off. Of course, she took Norn and Kanon’s pace into account and didn’t do so at full speed. Since she understands that her own strength is drawn out by Ichinojo. In contrast, she was worried about Kanon. Unlike Norn who dives into the labyrinth daily as part of the vigilante squad, she was worried about Kanon’s ability, considering she was a Blacksmith.

However, she saw that unlike Norn who’s body axis was beginning to shake, Kanon still looked like she had a lot of leeways.

(So her physical strength might be greater than Norn-san ... maybe because blacksmithing is a job that requires physical strength.)

In that condition, Kanon would probably be able to follow even if she increased the pace — Haurvatat thought that and told Norn to ride on her back (Stella, in turn, rode on Norn’s back) before she started running with all her might. *(TL: Lol Haru is looking quite monstrous now with 2 people stacked on her back.)*

Of course, with Norn on her back, she couldn’t pull forth her full speed but if she could follow this speed — Haurvatat looked forward to seeing if Kanon was capable in terms of instantaneous power compared to stamina. If it is the job of

a Blacksmith to wield a hammer then she should have arm strength as well.

“Haurvatat-san, if you wish to test me then you can raise the speed slightly more. I have confidence in my physical strength after all.”

“Aah ... riding brings back memories of riding on Fenrir ... Haru-san, please go slowly.”

“Fenrir ... that legendary beast? You rode on its back?”

Although Haru’s voice was slightly raised, she still asked with composure. However, internally she was astonished.

Haurvatat heard about the legendary beast Fenrir from the person who sealed it after all.

That person was — Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei. She told Haurvatat about it.

She expressed that she could defeat Fenrir with a single arm. Haurvatat knew that it was a form of compliment to its strength. After all, normally she would say she could defeat them with a single fingertip or even without having to use a single finger.

In light of the conversation until now, she speculated that the current master of Kanon and Norn was a person capable of removing the seal on Fenrir and control it as a subordinate.

” ... Yup, a lot has happened on our journey to here.”

Norn said ambiguously. She had no choice but to say it ambiguously.

Since she can’t speak of anything about her master.

In the end, Haurvatat returned to the Cat Sith village at 70% of her full speed.

As she ran there at full speed and came back at 70% speed, Haurvatat’s legs were burning up to the point that pain would run through them if touched, no, it was in a state where the pain persisted even if they weren’t touched.

Nevertheless, they somehow made it.

“Kanon? Kanonnn!!”

Malina ran over and hugged Kanon.

“Wait, calm down Malina. Didn’t you say she has grown? She’s exactly the same as before.”

“That was unfair, leaving all on your own. I haven’t even had the chance to thank you. So I’ll say it now. Thank you thank you thank ...”

Suddenly, Malina was started — and pushed away Kanon who she was hugging.

” ... More importantly, it’s ... terrible!”

“To think that our reunion would be like this ... you’ve certainly become a little stronger, Malina.”

Kanon said somewhat sadly.

Ignoring what Kanon said, Malina told them about the serious incident.

“Jofre-san and Elize-san were attacked by somebody ... and suffered serious injuries ...”

(158) Growth Cheat Detour

In another 48 hours, the monster sealed by the Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei would be released.

Sheena told them that it was because a part of the barrier was broken.

“Sheena ... don’t tell me the seal was broken because we saw that jewel just now?”

“No, just the other day, the cornerstone at the Western Continent was broken. That is the cause. It is just a coincidence that master visited this island.”
(TL: If you guys don’t remember, I’m pretty sure she’s referring to the one Jofre and Elize took from the undiscovered labyrinth.)

I was slightly relieved after hearing that but ...

“Is the monster really that strong?”

“It is a monster that Famiris·Raritei-sama could only resort to sealing it. Even if the hero and his party who defeated Demon Lord-sama fought it, they probably wouldn’t have been able to win too.”

“Such a monster ... then the current me won’t be able to win ... but I can’t just leave it be too.”

I muttered worriedly.

What would happen if such a violent monster revives?

It won’t stop after just trampling on this island. It would naturally attack any passing merchant ship and if it attacked us while we are rowing our boat, it might be life-threatening.

” ... Is it certain that the monster would attack this island?”

“As I mentioned before, this island also serves as a cornerstone for that monster’s seal — that jewel you saw before. It will assault this island to destroy that seal. If possible, before that happens, I would like master to take that jewel. I would like master to protect what Sheena No.3 has protected all this while.”

Sheena said that as she once again took out the hidden jewel.

" ... Sorry, Sheena. I can't take that. Sheena, you take it. Let's escape together."

"I apologize but I am unable to comply. Only Demon Lord Famiris•Raritei-sama, the grandmaster, is able to give me permission to change location."

"I've already said it before. The Demon Lord is no longer in this world."

"Yes, so Sheena No.3 will not be able to leave this island."

Then, Sheena continued.

"Rest at ease master. I may be able to speak like this but I do not have emotions. I am entirely a doll created to fulfill my role. I do not want to think that I am expendable but it is Sheena No.3's lifelong ambition to complete my task."

" ... You said that there are another 48 hours before the seal is broken right?"

"Yes, 48 hours ... to be exact, it is 47 hours and 50 minutes but once the seal is broken, it would take 30 minutes to reach this island."

"I see, if that's the case, we can make a ship. Carol, sorry but please tell Pionia to hasten the production of the ship. Let me see, please make it within 40 hours."

I opened the door to My World while saying that.

Carol could somehow guess that I won't be coming with her.

She looked at Sheena,

"No.3-san, please believe in your master – Ichino-sama. Everyone has the right to happiness. No.3-san, I am certain it is alright for you to be a lot happier. Ichino-sama taught Carol that."

No way, she went and said such embarrassing words.

My ears were turning bright red.

"Carol – please hurry. We don't have time."

"Yes, understood."

Carol nodded and entered My World.

Then, I asked Sheena.

“Sheena, are you able to communicate with the monkeys?”

“Yes, I enlisted their help in exterminating monsters in exchange for providing them with fruits.”

“I see. From now until the time the ship is built, I wish to level up here but could you guide the monsters to me? Don’t activate the traps too.”

“Understood. Then, I shall send you to the interior of the labyrinth and tell you where the monsters surge from so please work hard to level up until the ship is constructed.”

After saying that, Sheena touched the wall with her hand.

The wall suddenly transformed into a door and opened.

Damn it, that Carol, she went said such an embarrassing phrase.

Thanks to that, I was too embarrassed and didn’t get to say anything.

..... That’s right, everyone has the right to happiness.

A monster that Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei could only resort to sealing? One that the Hero party can’t defeat?

Doesn’t that mean it is stronger than the Demon Lord, than the Hero?

Well, my time limit is 48 hours. With my growth speed 400 times faster than a normal person, it’s already close to 2 years worth of training.

Furthermore, since I am able to train 5 jobs at the same time, it’s closer to 10 years worth of training. Moreover, the rate I gain experience points would be raised since the monsters would be led to me and by being able to combine the status of those 5 jobs, my ability shouldn’t lose to even the Hero.

“Sorry, Haru, Malina. If possible, I would have liked to meet up with you two sooner but please wait for me.”

Once I prove that there is nothing impossible once I combine my Growth Cheat and Jobless Cheat, I will immediately go to where the two of them are!

(159) Solitary Labyrinth Exploration

At this moment, I urgently had to level up.

By the way, my current jobs have been set as:

【Jobless Lv90 Fire Magician Lv12 Water Magician Lv1 Wind Magician Lv1 Earth Magician Lv12】

As long as I do not know what kind of monster is going to revive, I should avoid having to fight it in close combat. As such, my only choice of attack would be by using magic.

I will raise my strongest magic to the limit with Magical Power Boost and finish it with a single shot.

Even for me, magical power depletion and having to exit the combat would be unavoidable once I release a highest level magic with Magical Power Boost.

I can't help it in that circumstance. I would probably use a door to My World I prepare in advance and flee.

That's why, in order to reliably kill that monster, I was intent on defeating monsters to level up. However, Carol would have to stay back.

Initially, I thought of fighting together but I realized that Carol would then take 25% of my experience points if she was together with me.

As we were tight on time, that loss would be too big.

That's why, although I felt sorry for her, I had her return to My World and asked her to cultivate Mana Grass.

Mana Grass is a herb that can be made into mana potions if purified but consuming it unprocessed would also provide some amounts of MP regeneration (However, it is extremely bitter). I'll be utilizing the herb Carol harvested during our travel between Gomaki Village and the Border town of Dakyat.

『Sheena No.3 reporting. A monster is spawning. Please turn right at the next corner.』

A message came from Sheena as if she was doing an on-site broadcast. After running for a bit, I identified the position of the monsters with my Detect Enemy skill.

Upon turning right at the corner, there was a large centipede close to 3 meters tall.

“「Fire」!”

I released magic.

The middle-rank Fire Magic mercilessly swallowed the centipede and returned it to ash.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

【Water Magician skill: 「Water Magic II」has skilled up to「Water Magic III」】

【Wind Magician skill: 「Wind Magic II」has skilled up to「Wind Magic III」】

With that, my Water Magician and Wind Magician reached Lv8 in one go and Fire Magician and Earth Magician reached Lv14.

Surprisingly the monsters here give wonderful experience points. But the rate the monsters spawn wasn't that fast.

Usually, for Magicians and Apprentice Magicians, just using magic would gain experience points but for Attribute Magicians, they can't gain experience points if they do not use the corresponding magic. For example, if I used the magic 「Water」, I would acquire experience points for Apprentice Magician, Magician and Water Magician but not for Fire Magician, Wind Magician and Earth Magician. *(TL: Wait, he just used Fire and got exp for water and wind magician too ...)*

As my MP wasn't limitless even if it is significant and my means to recover it is limited, I gave up on gaining experience points by using magic even when there was no need for it.

Collecting the magic stone that dropped, I kept it in my item bag and ran deeper into the labyrinth.

Apparently, miasma would flow when people walk by and that would cause the birth of miasma stagnation and make it easier for monsters to spawn.

I wondered if it was reversed when I heard that making it flow will make it easier for it to stagnate. For water, a stagnant pond would appear cloudier than a flowing creek. That was the image I had in my head.

However, I heard that when walking in a labyrinth, it would make the miasma flow easier and the miasma would accumulate at locations where the flow is obstructed, like the dead-ends in the labyrinth.

To visualize it, imagine placing 200 marbles on a billiard table and gradually increase the number.

No matter how much you increase the number, the marbles probably won't gather in a single spot but once they are moved, they will ultimately all fall into the six pockets. In other words, they gathered in six locations.

Miasma works in a similar fashion and once a certain amount gathers, it would apparently materialize into a monster.

If that's the case, you would ask would monsters not be born in labyrinths if nobody enters, going back to the billiard example just now, if the marbles continue to increase, the end result would be a large number of marbles on top of the billiard table.

If that happens, the miasma would form gigantic monsters and frenzied monsters, leading to a major outbreak of monsters.

That is most likely the principle for the occurrence of the Fish Lizard outbreak and the Gigantic Fish Lizard in the Intermediate Labyrinth in Florence.

" ... As expected, it was a good choice to not strike down those monkeys."

Those monkey monsters have a good relationship with Sheena and they seem to be nice guys who just love hot springs.

『Sheena No.3 reporting. Monster spawning. It looks to be heading your way. It is a water and wind attribute monster so please defeat it with Wind Magic or Earth Magic.』

Oops, looks like a monster has spawned.

After waiting for a bit, a huge jellyfish came flying towards me through the air from a distance.

I wondered what was the name of that monster.

“「Stone」!”

I released Earth attribute Magic for now. The large rock that flew forth pierced the jellyfish and it was down with a single strike, falling onto the ground.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

【Water Magician skill: 「Water Resistance (minor)」acquired】

【Earth Magician skill: 「Earth Resistance (minor)」acquired】

I was leveling up satisfactorily but nevertheless, the joy of leveling up is halved after all if there are no companions beside you to share it with.

I picked up a gelatine-like substance that the jellyfish dropped.

That was genuine gelatine so maybe I should use grape juice later to make grape jelly. I don't know if this world has jelly (Suzuki, Malina, Daijiro-san and etc., countless Japanese people have reincarnated in this world so the possibility is high) but Carol would probably like it.

“Originally I would want to let Haru and Malina eat it too.”

Talking about that, I wonder if Sheena No.3 can eat? Pionia is definitely capable of eating though.

“Haru ... are you doing well?”

Talking to nobody in particular, I muttered to the ceiling of the labyrinth.

(160) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 3

“I heard that you guys were attacked by somebody and suffered severe injuries but — ”

In a room of a certain inn in the Cat Sith village.

When she went to that room after hearing that Jofre and Elize had suffered serious injuries, Haurvatat instead saw Jofre and Elize chatting and an angry Mikke.

“It’s not a joke nya! I requested for your help because I heard you guys were strong but you guys won’t do with that ability nya! Stella, is this your doing nya?”

“I didn’t do anything nya!”

Stella strongly denied Mikke’s doubtful gaze as he was close to bursting out in anger.

“What’s going on in the first place? From what I can see, your legs are injured though.”

Jofre and Elize. The both of them had bandages wrapped around their legs.

Even if they drank potions, it would be easy to tell if they were injured. Drinking potions will encourage recovery but for cases like broken bones, it would take at least a few days for it to fully mend.

If it is to be healed immediately, then it would require the Healing Magic of a Practitioner but the number of Practitioners is extremely small and among the Cat Siths, there are even fewer individuals who have been promoted to that job. Apparently, there is only one — the attendant of the attendant of the current first prince, Mikke and Stella’s brother.

To become an Apprentice Practitioner, one must raise his Commoner level. Defeating monsters or paying taxes is required to gain Commoner experience points. However, in the Cat Sith village, the concept of taxes doesn’t exist in the

first place and there are few workers too so the number of Cat Siths playing around as Commoners is extremely small.

“We were pinned under the table you know. Hah, I’m beat. The table was surprisingly heavy. It will take me 3 days to completely recover from the bone fracture.”

“I was seriously shocked you know. So shocked that even my hiccups stopped. For me, 2 days to fully recover.”

The two of them explained with a tone as though there wasn’t any problem with it.

Haurvatat was just a little curious. The tables in the Cat Sith village were made of wood. She wondered if getting pinned under a wooden table would cause such a serious injury.

“Why did the table break? You mentioned that they were attacked so were cuts made onto the table to make it break?”

“No, that’s not it. We were given a sumptuous meal from the people supporting the tournament. Then, just as we were about to dig in, Centaur entered from outside — ”

“And jumped onto the table. Centaur’s heavy so the table legs broke.”

“And that’s how the bones in our legs broke as well.” *(TL: Lol those rare medals really gave Centaur the pounds.)*

Haurvatat had nothing to say towards Jofre’s lame joke. Stella sighed and,

“It clearly has nothing to do with us nya. More importantly, did you request Maru-oniichan to treat them nya?”

“I did nya. But he told me that Potch has to administer Healing Magic for the tournament tomorrow and the day after tomorrow so he must rest nya ... haa, so I have to compete with three people right off the bat ... it’s already impossible nya.”

Mikke entered a solemn mood on his own.

“But that is not the only problem nya. After investigating, it was found that within the food that was prepared for the two of them — there was a couple of

hundred times of a lethal dose of poison, enough to kill even a dragon, inside their food nya. We checked the Cat Siths who carried the food over and it seemed like they had been placed under hypnotic magic nya. It was clearly an attempted murder nya. If the criminal is part of Stella side's participants, you will be disqualified for that reason nya!"

He gave a daring smile.

"We won't do such a thing nya!"

Stella bellowed in anger but Haurvatat was startled.

"Then, Centaur-san who ate that food — !"

In that circumstance, that was the first time Haurvatat raised her voice. Even if it was a donkey, Haurvatat thought of it as a companion who challenged a labyrinth together with them once.

"Ah, that donkey —"

Mikke gave a deep sigh as if he was fatigued to the depth of his soul.

That figure made them imagine the worst scenario.

Then, Mikke spoke with heavy words.

"After eating the majority of the food, he is still eating the grass at the back of the inn nya. I really want to cut open and examine just what kind of stomach it really has nya."

He said and laughed. His laughter had already turned into despondent laughter.

(Perhaps Centaur-san came rushing to aid Jofre-san and Elize-san when they were in a pinch ... nah, he probably only wanted to eat the food.)

Haurvatat speculated but probably only Centaur knew the truth.

Then, Haurvatat said.

"We will definitely not attempt to poison the two of them. They are our acquaintances after all."

"Fumu. Moreover, our master would not wish for something like that."

Marina commented after she had worn her mask without any of them noticing.

The master Marina referred to was not Stella but Ichinojo.

“Furthermore, we have no reason to harm the two of them. Seeing that is the case, the criminal is another set of participants. Can it be that Maru-san?”

Haurvatat asked.

“”Maru-oniichan will nyot do something like that nya!””

Stella and Mikke said in sync.

※ ※ ※

Meanwhile.

Norn and Kanon who had entered the Cat Sith village had come to the planned construction site for the arena.

Even though it was called an arena, they apparently only plan to create audience seats in the wide desert and they won't even make a stage.

Currently, the Cat Siths were proceeding with the construction at a quick pace.

“Are you sure you don't want to go? You know Jofre and Elize right? I don't really want to meet the two of them since they bought my fake weapons. Nihihi.”

“I also don't have any good memories of them so —”

Norn explained evasively. She didn't go visit the two of them not because she didn't want to meet Jofre and Elize. It was because she was uneasy leaving Kanon on her own.

In Norn's heart, she felt that Kanon has some kind of a secret.

On the other hand, Kanon knew that even though Norn has not seen through her true identity, she knew that Norn has a vague intuition that she is not an ordinary person but she was enjoying it.

Even though Malina had traveled with her for years, she had totally not noticed her true identity.

“Hn? That Cat Sith. He’s together with humans. Is he that Prince Maru?”

What Norn saw was a Cat Sith together with 3 humans.

Kanon looked at them and her eyes met the eyes of one of the men. A man with a fearless smile.

Kanon froze.

“Kanon-san, what’s wrong?”

Kanon didn’t answer even though Norn asked.

That was because, along with that Cat Sith possible to be Prince Maru, one of the human —

No, he is not human.

“Why ... is he here?”

The person there was the Third General of the Demon Lord’s army, the vampire Valf.

(161) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 4

That night.

To have a strategy meeting, Haurvatat, Malina, Kanon, Norn, and Stella were gathered at Stella's Silver Vine brewery. And at the same time, Haurvatat was down. She was drunk from the smell of the alcohol in the brewery and was asleep. She was currently sleeping in the neighboring room.

She was muttering "Master ... master ..." in her sleep so Malina and Norn once again realized the importance of the tournament.

On the other hand, Malina noticed that Kanon was acting strangely.

" ... Kanon, is something the matter?"

Malina asked worriedly but Kanon shook her head and said with a laugh.

"Since when has Malina become so praiseworthy as to worry about me? Have you treated your fear of people?"

"That ... not yet."

"Then please focus on that. I am all right."

She said with a toothy smile.

"Our first match is with a team called Nyanto Six Stars."

Having not met the Nyanto Six Stars, Norn muttered as she stared at the competition table.

"That's right nya. Even though Mikke and Maru-onii are supposed to fight, it's probably over for Mike nya. It's critical to lose even a single participant and the combat ability of Julio and Sutchino can't be counted upon in the first place nya. Mikke's own combat ability is nonexistent as well so there's no meaning in looking for substitutes nya."

It would a tournament with 6 participants in a team. A substitution can only be done once during the fight.

However, that can only be done in special circumstances like if the scheduled participant didn't show up or that they have suffered from serious injury or illness.

Even if they had prepared a substitute for Mikke only, it's true that it won't have any use in this case.

"And so, what about our order nya? Senpo, Jihou, Chuuken, Fukushou, Taishou (TL: 先鋒、次鋒、中堅、副将、大将 *1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th fighters in Kendo matches – They arguably each have a certain role to play. Look it up if you're interested.*). Normally the convention is to line up from the weakest participant first nya."

"Norn and Malina are stronger than an average person but their combat ability doesn't stand out so if possible, I would prefer if Haurvatat, Stella and I decide the match."

Kanon said.

Kanon's suggestion for the first match was to place Malina as the first participant, Stella next, Haurvatat as the third, herself as fourth and Norn as the final discarded piece.

" ... Discarded piece."

Norn looked like she was dissatisfied but she understood that she was the weakest among them.

" — I'm the first?"

Malina asked in shock.

"Malina has that skill so you are skilled at tricks right? Don't worry, you can surrender if you think you're going to lose. The Nyanto Six Stars aren't that strong so Stella, Haurvatat and I will definitely not lose."

And Kanon added on in her heart.

(By any chance if Stella or Haurvatat loses, as long as we don't discard Norn, we would need Malina's win. Under such pressure, that girl won't be able to demonstrate her full ability.)

That way of thinking could be considered to be overprotective but she

believed that it had the highest chance of winning.

“Then I’ll submit it nya.”

“Ah, wait a minute. I’ll submit the participation sheet. Stella and Norn, please nurse Haurvatat. Malina looks like she’s about to collapse from nerves so I want to let her walk a little and I have confirmed the location of the tournament headquarters in the afternoon. Come, Malina, get yourself together.”

Kanon said as she took the participant sheet, made the nervous Malina stand and walked towards the tournament headquarters.

※ ※ ※

Noon the next day.

The four team leaders of the teams participating in the tournament, the four Cat Siths, walked up the stage and made an oath.

Among them, only Mikke’s expression — his fur condition wasn’t looking good. He would probably have to give up from the start.

Nevertheless, Haurvatat and the others wanted him to try his best and compete.

Since they could not get their hands on information on the opponent team. They heard about Prince Maru, in other words, Stella’s brother, from Stella.

About him being the best Swordsman among the Cat Sith. But the ability of the people Maru brought was unknown.

(Valf isn’t around ... well, he’s probably resting since he hates morning.)

Kanon pondered while keeping wary of her surroundings.

Vampires are weak in the morning and afternoon after all.

And once the opening ceremony was over, the tournament had finally begun.

As the first participant, Marina with her mask on and her Wind Bow stepped into the center of the arena.

And faced one of the Nyanto Six Stars — Nyai.

The fight to determine the new Cat Sith King has finally begun.

(162) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 5

Marina was facing one of the Nyanto Six Stars, Nyai.

Nyai was not holding onto a sword but instead claws.

“With no further ado, the King position determining martial tournament, first round, first match — ”

“The King position determining martial tournament, first round, first match, with no further ado — ”

The referees for this tournament were the two Calico Cat Siths who can’t speak in tandem but this time they announced in sync.

“”Begin nya!””

At the same time as that announcement, Nyai took a forward-bent posture.

At the same time, Marina pulled her magical bowstring and released a Wind Arrow, and further pulled the bowstring two more times to release a total of three arrows.

Nyai dodged the arrow by jumping, dodged another by jumping and reduced the distance between them.

Marina released arrows as she ran backwards to increase the distance between her and Nyai.

” ... Attacking with a bow and arrow losses its advantages in a narrow arena ... I guess Marina has no chance of winning.”

Kanon said calmly.

The difference in speed between Marina who was running backwards and Nyai who was running forward on two feet despite evading the attacks was evident. Furthermore, if Marina continued escaping backwards, she would crash into the audience stand. Even though there wasn’t a stage, reaching the audience stand would constitute an out-of-bounds lost.

She was pressed — or so Kanon and other as well as the Nyanto Six Stars thought. But,

“It’s all right.”

Haurvatat claimed. Her eyes didn’t show any hint of anxiety.

Even though Kanon didn’t know, Haurvatat knew.

Marina grew at a tremendous rate after she was separated from Kanon.

As Marina released arrows while running backwards, she confirmed that she can’t run backwards anymore and suddenly ran forward. And she released even more arrows.

“It’s meaningless no matter how many times you attack nya!”

Nyai said as he moved to evade the first arrow but at that moment, the arrow behind it hit the arrow that Nyai just evaded. The collision of the Wind Arrows caused an interference that caused a Wind Bomb.

“Nya!”

Not to mention evading, Nyai who was directly beside the blast was completely hit by that gust of wind. He somehow escaped from getting blown away by piercing the ground with his claws but that gave plenty of gap for Marina to aim for.

She got closer to Nyai and released even more Wind Arrows towards the arrows that were approaching him. Then, after he was caught in another blast, the Wind Arrows she released changed their directions and hit Nyai’s claws — causing a crack in the metal claws. When the wind subsided, the cracked part of the claw broke cleanly when he attempted to pull the claws out.

“I believe you can’t fight any longer with those claws. Why don’t you surrender?”

Marina wiped her sweat and provoked him.

Nyai took off his claws without a word.

Then, he got on all fours and charged towards her.

Marina couldn’t release an arrow at Nyai.

His speed was incomparable to before. It was clear that he would be able to evade it if an arrow was shot at him and the clever scheme just now won't work too.

Then — Nyai circled around Marina's back, jumped onto her back and thrust his natural sharpened claws at her neck.

Feeling the sensation of those claws on her throat, Marina closed her eyes and,

" ... You got me. It's my loss."

She said with a sigh.

Those words were taken as surrendering.

"Winner, Nyai nya!"

"It's Nyai's win nya!"

The referees' announcement marked the end of the first match and Marina's loss.

Nyai lowered his claws,

" ... Why nya?"

"Why ... huh. Unfortunately, I do not have that much magical power. It would be difficult for me to release any more arrows."

"Not that nya. That attack aimed at my claws, if you aimed at me then, I would surely have been defeated nya."

"Oh that ... yeah. Unfortunately, I am not able to suppress the power of the Wind Arrows. You might be an opponent at the moment but there is a girl that would grieve if I injure you."

Marina said while placing her hand on her chest. Haurvatat and the others understood that she was referring to Malina.

"Moreover, there are three people behind me guaranteed to win who are waiting to do so. I thought that it was the best option to leave the stage by losing via magical power depletion."

Marina said as she spun a Wind Arrow around her fingers and returned to

where Haurvatat and the others were.

Looking at her back, Nyai bowed his head deeply.

” ... That was surprising. I came in knowing about that child’s skill with the bow but to think that she would be able to exhibit similar ability — no, to exhibit an even greater ability in battle.”

“Marina’s offensive power mainly revolves around your skill with the bow and clever schemes. Prolonging the fight would be unfavourable for tomorrow’s fight so that was probably a strategic withdrawal right ... believe in us.”

“That’s true, after that girl showed us that fight, there’s no way we can afford to lose.”

Kanon said with a bitter smile.

“Sorry, everyone. Looks like I lost.”

“Good job Marina-san nya. It was a good match nya. I’ll do my best next.”

Stella drew her sword.

“Second participant, please come out to the front nya!”

“Come out to the front nya, second participant!”

Those eyes were filled with fighting spirit.

The Nyanto Six Star’s second participant was a grey cat named Yunya.

His weapon was a one-handed axe.

Even though they all held daggers when they first met them, it looked like when the Nyanto Six Stars put on their official equipment, each of the members have different weapons that they are proficient in.

” ... Stella-sama — I have never won against Stella-sama but I will take this as a practice against an opponent with higher skill and fight with all my ability.”

“Same here nya. I shall see with my own eyes Yunya’s growth nya.”

As such, the second match began.

Axe versus sword. Yunya was apparently the strongest Cat Sith and his attacks were powerful. However,

“It’s meaningless if it doesn’t hit.”

It might not compare against Haurvatat but Stella boasts the highest speed among the Cat Siths.

Stella accurately hit Yunya with her sword.

Then, after 15 minutes, Yunya admitted to his defeat.

(163) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 6

After Stella's win, the match flowed very smoothly for us.

"Winner, Kanon nya!"

"Kanon is the winner nya!"

After the declaration of the end of the 4th participant match was made, they moved on to announce the end of the first round.

""With that, the first round goes to Stella-sama and her team!""

Kanon sheathed her obsidian knife.

After the 2nd match was over, Haurvatat and Kanon each won the 3rd and 4th matches so the round was decided without having to reach the 5th match.

It proceeded as Haurvatat and the others had planned.

"Kanon is really strong nya."

"Were you doubting me?"

Kanon asked Stella with a laugh.

Unbeknownst to Stella, and naturally Haurvatat and Marina as well, Kanon's actual combat style was not with daggers but with magic — furthermore, Darkness Magic was her specialty.

Similar to Marina, she did not use magic just then because she wanted to hide some of her abilities.

(Though with General Valf on that side, my abilities have most likely been revealed to a certain extent.) Kanon sighed.

"What's wrong nya?"

"Nothing, I may certainly be strong but there are those stronger than me in the world."

Kanon smiled and down-played herself.

Only Norn gave a bitter smile as she knew about the person that was stronger than Kanon.

“As expected, I didn’t get to do anything.”

She said with regret.

Even though it was as planned, unlike Marina who had a good fight, she was chagrined at herself for not achieving anything.

“It’s fine it’s fine. It was Norn’s task to not do anything after all.”

“You’re referring to being a disposable piece?”

“That’s not it. Well, you might be able to tell tomorrow.”

As Kanon said words with hidden meaning, the next round had begun.

Julio, Sutchino, and Milky went up the stage together.

” ... Why did the three of them go up the stage together?”

Haurvatat found it strange and asked nobody in particular. Stella answered her.

“It’s Mikke’s suggestion nya. In a one-versus-one match up, the three of them would have to win all the matches nya. However, Julio and Sutchino’s abilities aren’t a big deal so he thought that there was a better chance if the three of them faced five opponents nya. Since that Magic Journalist Milky seems to be quite skillful nya.”

” ... I see, I get that logic but why is there only one opponent?”

That’s right, there was only one participant from Maru’s team.

A man with a clown-like appearance, with white and red makeup, stood there.

” ... Participant Pierre. Where are the others nya?”

” ... Where have the others gone to nya? Participant Pierre.”

When the judges asked, the man called Pierre, “Oya?”

Muttered and looked around his surroundings restlessly.

“Yup, nobody’s around. Does that mean this is my exclusive battlefield?”

Pierre laughed out loud.

“Are you okay on your own nya? Prince Maru’s team will lose if Participant Pierre losses though?”

“Participant Pierre’s loss would signify Prince Maru’s team’s loss as well so are you sure you are alright on your own nya?”

“I don’t really mind. Even though it is a match, Pierre’s role is to let the audience enjoy it!”

Pierre claimed with a smile.

Hearing Pierre’s declaration, the color of the eyes of Julio and Sutchino, who believe that they would lose, changed and they began to talk in whispers.

“Julio, won’t we be able to defeat that guy if he’s alone?”

“Yeah, Sutchino. Let’s defeat that clown and repay them for what was done to elder brother Jofre and elder sister Elize.”

“Don’t phrase it as if those two died ... wait, they’re not in the gallery too, where have they gone to?”

Sutchino looked at the audience but couldn’t find the figures of Jofre and Elize.

And then, the two of them slowly drew back.

“With no further ado, the king determining martial tournament, first match of the second round —”

“The king determining martial tournament, first match of the second round will now —”

“”Begin nya!””

The judges exclaimed.

“”I leave it to you! Milky!””

They said together and devoted themselves to cheer her on.

And thus, Milky, having left to fight on her own, had a nosebleed.

Since Milky couldn’t hear the whispers that happened between Julio and

Sutchino, she had arbitrarily filled the conversation in her own head. The end result was her nosebleed.

” ... Fufufu.”

An eerie smile appeared on her face as she wiped her nosebleed with her right thumb and used the blood to complete the talismans she prepared the night before.

“I can fight any number of people.”

She said as she threw the talismans.

Those talismans all turned to handsome men. But all of them looked very frail.

“Amazing nya! She summoned a lot of humans nya!”

“She summoned tons of humans nya! Amazing nya!”

Milky explained as the judges shouted excitedly.

“A high-level technique even within Magic Journalists — a secret technique born from the 「Shikigami Summon」 skill that materializes what is drawn inside the circle, 「2D Summon」. Are you sure you can face these many on your own?”

“Great! Milky.”

“Get em’ Milky!”

Julio and Sutchino yelled from behind Milky. Those were not yells for the activation of skills but merely to cheer her on.

“I see~, it might~ certainly be difficult on my own.”

After Pierre said that, he followed with a question.

“By the way, do you like~ to see lions dive through flaming hoops?”

” ... ? I’m not interested.”

Then, the next instant — Pierre raised his hand forward, “If you are not interested then, by all means~, please be interested! Time for the lion that failed to leap through the flaming hoop to shine~!”

A Flaming Lion appeared.

Milky's complexion paled.

The Magic Journalist's greatest weakness was that their weapon was made of paper.

In other words, its durability will fall once in contact with water and if it touches fire —

” ... Sigh.”

Milky sighed.

The 2D handsome guys she spent all night making were burnt to a crisp in an instant.

Then, the next instant, that Flaming Lion wrapped around Milky.

“”Milky!””

Julio body tackled Milky who was wrapped in flames and they fell over as Sutchino took off his top and covered the two of them to douse the flame as he declared.

“It's our loss! Don't attack any further!”

Thus, the second match quickly reached a conclusion.

Pierre extracted a silk hat from out of nowhere and tossed it. That hat then transformed into the shape of a cane.

He used that cane and walked off the arena.

” ... That guy would be our match opponent tomorrow ... it doesn't look like we would be able to deal with him using ordinary means.”

Haurvatat stared at the leaving Pierre and said.

Nevertheless, she knew that she must win.

All for the sake of saving her master Ichinojo.

(164) When leaving the island

“Ichino-sama, you’ve worked hard.”

In a certain hidden room in the center of the labyrinth, Carol came to greet me.

Sheena told me that night had already passed and it was about ten minutes past seven in the morning. In other words, I had continuously hunted monsters all night.

“Carol, did you not sleep by any chance?”

“Yes. Pionia-san has been constructing the ship so Carol figured that the least Carol could do was prepare everyone’s food — Pionia-san has already had her dinner and breakfast. Ichino-sama, would you like to eat now?”

Carol said as she showed me the breakfast arranged on top of a table beside her. That table wasn’t there yesterday so did she bring it over? I did leave the door to My World open after all.

Delicious dishes were lined up on the table.

Fruits took up the majority of the dishes but there were meat dishes as well. It looked like it took quite some effort.

“Did Carol make all of this?”

I considered Carol’s cooking ability. It’s a little rude but I don’t think it is possible for her to make this meal with her ability.

” ... No, Carol isn’t really good with cooking so Carol had No.3-san’s help.”

I see, so Sheena made it. Just like Pionia, their specs are superb.

“I see. Thank you for helping too. I only munched on dried meat for dinner so I was feeling hungry.”

I looked at Sheena as well and said,

“Thank you too, Sheena.”

“Don’t mention it, it is Sheena No.3’s duty to help master. I am glad to be able

to aid master before the end.”

As expected, Sheena had already given up.

Soon, the revived monster would come to destroy this island.

I went to train in order to do something about that monster but I couldn't tell Sheena about it. I knew that she would oppose it and there was also a selfish reason.

(If I find that my life is in danger, I would most likely abandon this child.)

That in itself gave me an intense sense of guilt.

If I die here, Carol would also perish with me. Even if I sent Carol to My World, she would not be able to open the door that connects back to this world without me.

It's not only Carol. If I die, I can't tell what would happen to Haru and Malina who are registered as my slaves.

I ate breakfast together with Carol. Since I had to replenish my physical strength, I filled my belly as much as possible.

When I was about to drink my final gulp of tea, a large tremor hit our breakfast dining table.

“Master, please, it is about time you left this island. It is dangerous. The ship is already complete too.”

I thought that we still had more time but,

“I will ask once again. Even if I order you or appeal to you, you will not come with us?”

“Yes. Since it is an order from grandmaster.”

Sheena answered without missing a beat. She was adamant in showing her intention of not budging.

That Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei also gave such an unnecessary command. Even though she has already died, that command still can't be withdrawn.

“... I see. Thank you, I've been in your care. I want to show my thanks somehow but do you have anything you want me to do for you?”

Upon hearing my question, Sheena was a little troubled as she held her tongue.

Then —

“I have a phrase I wish to hear from master before the end — ”

“A phrase you want me to say?”

What exactly would it be?

Words of love? It wasn't that kind of atmosphere.

“What is it?”

“The words『I'm going, see you later.』”

“That's all?”

“Yes.”

I wondered why Sheena wanted to hear those words but I said it to her.

“I'm going, see you later, Sheena.”

“Yes, take care, master.”

(TL: It's the 'Ittekimasu/Itterashai' pair of phrases Japanese use, said to loved ones when they leave for work or go out etc. 'Ittekimasu' roughly means 'I'm going, see you later' while 'Itterashai' would be 'Have a safe trip'.)

Sheena replied and bowed deeply. I was unable to see her expression.

However, I looked at her figure as I muttered 'See you later' once more and headed to the labyrinth exit together with Carol.

At the labyrinth exit, the monkeys sent us off from the treetops.

And then, looking at the sole exit, the pool of hot spring had apparently cooled significantly and it was the perfect temperature to swim in. It looks like Sheena No.3 had adjusted the water temperature.

“Ah that's right, we must pass through here. Carol, please return to My World for now. Only I have to dive into the water.”

“Okay, please excuse me.”

I opened My World using my Hikikomori skill and allowed Carol to enter.

Then, I dived into the water.

I totally didn't imagine something like this would happen when I first dived into this pool.

I surfaced onto ground.

Naturally, the ice I released had already melted.

Then, I walked straight through the forest and headed to the beach.

"I couldn't make it in the end huh ... I'll make do somehow."

I confirmed my jobs before arriving at the beach.

【Jobless Lv97 Fire Magician Lv60 ★ Water Magician Lv56 Wind Magician Lv56 Earth Magician Lv60 ★】

I reached the peak for Fire Magician and Earth Magician an hour before I had my breakfast.

I had to give up on maxing out Water Magician and Wind Magician as, according to Sheena's announcement, the monsters' respawn would not happen for a while but my current magical attack power was already heaven-piercing.

With this power, I can even defeat the Demon Lord.

Determined, I arrived at the beach.

An extremely calm sea was spread in front of my eyes.

(165) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 7

The morning of the second day of the tournament.

Preparation for the final round was steadily progressing. Although I say that, the preparations were for a large banquet that would serve as both the celebratory party as well as a social gathering, the arena remained the same as yesterday.

Stella visited the room Maru was resting at on her own.

There weren't any bodyguards stationed in front of his room and she could only detect a single presence inside the room.

Stella knocked to confirm if Maru was there.

"The door isn't locked nya."

Hearing Maru's voice, Stella opened the door without a word.

"Stella huh? ... What do you want nya?"

"I came to request for something from Maru-onii nya. Crystal Ball of Far Sight. I wish to use that nya. If you let me use it now, I will yield the King position to Maru-onii nya."

That was the conclusion she came to after pondering throughout the night.

In the first place, her goal was to create the supreme Silver Vine Wine so she was not interested in the King position.

However, since she was helped by Haurvatat in the past and Ichinojo was currently missing, she was just lending her help.

Maru-onii would willingly accept. That's what she thought.

"I can't do that nya, Stella. The Crystal Ball of Far Sight — — once used, it will need 10 years to regain its magical power nya. And only members of the royal family are allowed to use it nya."

"Please bend the rules for me nya. If Maru-onii and I give the approval,

nobody would oppose it nya.”

” ... I see ... You wish to have it no matter what nya?”

Maru said as he took a step forward with his paw forward. Maru’s paw slowly approached Stella’s eye.

“Onee-san, I am not interested in such backroom deals. Do you know? That’s called match-fixing.”

Kanon appeared at that moment.

She was looking at them from the opened door while leaning against a wall.

Neither Stella nor Maru knew since when was she there.

“Kanon-san, this —— ”

“I can tell that it is for that Onii-san’s sake as well. However, I believe you understand that act of forming a secret agreement behind a serious match is an act of betrayal to the people’s trust as well as the previous King’s feelings? Well, that’s also why it took you a whole night of worrying before you could come up with that decision.”

“That is ——”

“Okay okay, this conversation ends here. Prince-sama, the match will be held earnestly —— right?”

“Of course nya. Stella, I do not plan to hold my hand so Stella should compete with all you got as well nya. We’ll talk about the Crystal Ball of Far Sight after the end of the tournament nya.”

” ... All right nya.”

Stella nodded and left the room.

Then, after sending Stella off down the corridor with her eyes, Kanon posed a question to Maru.

“Kanon, is there something else?”

“I see that you’ve turned into a splendid puppet —— what were you intending to do to Stella just now?”

Maru's complexion changed when he heard Kanon's question.

"Kanon-san. You should have already realized but — — "

Switching from his speech pattern just now, Maru spoke in words that were easy for Kanon to understand.

"Yeah, I know. That you are already Valf's dog."

"Dog ... huh. That's a strange way to put it — — It's not like I've turned into his kin. Well, it's kind of like a hypnotic state. I also retain my ego. But I can't go against Valf-sama."

"What did you intend to do to Stella just now."

"Just some minor hypnotism — — that girl trusts me so she's in a condition that is easily hypnotized but ... I won't be able to do it during battle — — you really did something unnecessary."

Maru said and laughed.

"Since I don't want to kill my sister — — "

Maru directed his anger at Kanon.

Kanon realized. That Maru retained his ego and it was also probably true that he wanted to apply the hypnotism on Stella for her sake.

"You would do better to not look upon that child lightly. Her swordsmanship is quite formidable."

"That's true. But she can't beat us. Ones we would have to watch out for would be those at the level of that white wolf race girl. We've not seen the ability of the last participant but she seems to be a throwaway piece."

"Oya, are you sure you don't need to be wary of me?"

"Yeah. After all, you — "

Maru narrowed his eyes and said with a laugh.

"You are under contract to not go against Valf-sama right? Last night, you've even been ordered to lose the match. Am I wrong?"

He said to Kanon.

Kanon didn't deny nor affirm that statement.

"That child is an idiot too. Lend her the Crystal Ball of Far Sight and she will give way to the throne? It is set in stone that I would become King even if I don't lend it to her. After all, the matchup is already 4 versus 6, no, counting in that throwaway piece, it is 3 versus 6 so that side has no chance of winning at all."

Maru wiped the dust from the windowsill with his claw and blew.

Kanon found his complacent expression annoying as she asked.

"Hey — where is Valf-sama now?"

"That esteemed person rests in the day. He will be here when night falls but — why does it matter? Ah? Were you aiming for a walkover for the last match? Unfortunately, Valf-sama may be weak against the sun but it's not like he can't move at all under it? If it ever reaches his turn, he will come out. Well, I would be punished if it ever reaches that stage though — "

Then, Maru — instantly hid his evil expression and smiled.

Kanon silently turned her back to him.

"See you, Kanon-san. I pray that we would be able to have a good match."

Hearing Maru's voice from behind, Kanon walked down the corridor on her own.

(166) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 8

The final round of the tournament to decide the position of the Cat Sith King was about to begin.

On Stella's side, the first participant was Marina. On the opposing side, Maru's side sent out Pierre as the first participant, the one who fought against Milky and the others yesterday.

Same as yesterday, he was standing at the center of the arena with white makeup and a red nose like a clown. His application of lipstick that forms a constant smile on his face told of the repulsiveness of his appearance.

His strength was unknown. His job and skills were also unknown.

(He is a Human. He's probably being manipulated just like Maru.)

Perhaps noticing Kanon's observation as if to appraise him, Pierre took off his silk hat, revealing his black hair and tossed that silk hat at Kanon. The silk hat transformed into a small bird that flew at Kanon — but when it approached Kanon, it suddenly burst into a storm of falling cherry blossoms.

Then, without anybody noticing, Pierre had his silk hat back in his hand as he bowed elegantly. His actions were as if to apply pressure on Kanon.

Although the Cat Siths who weren't aware of such hidden meanings were rewarding the magic show with applause.

"He's pretty popular."

Marina said with her Wind Bow in her hand.

Kanon warned Marina.

"Marina — please. Surrender immediately if you think it's dangerous."

"Kannon. If you are talking about my disappointing show yesterday then you are wrong. Once my sleeping powers awaken — "

"Leave something like that behind! Your opponent is dangerous."

“However, I also have to maintain my position. In the first place, against the next fighter Maru, Stella has never once won against him in a fight right? So it would be dangerous if I lose here.”

“Don’t worry, I will do something about it.”

“I see, if Kanon word it that way then I shall obey. But whether I surrender or not is a different matter.”

Marina commented as she stepped up to the arena.

With the contestants ready, the round was refereed by the same two Cat Siths who signaled the start of the round.

“Without further ado, the King position determining martial arts tournament, final round, first match — ”

“The King position determining martial arts tournament, final round, first match, shall we now —”

The two of them raised their hands.

“”Let the match begin nya!””

They shouted as they swung down their hands.

However, neither Pierre nor Marina made a move at all. It’s not because they were at the dimension where the first person to move would lose but because the two of them turned towards the audience together.

“I know, I can understand, Marina-dono. That you are one that lies on my side of the people.”

“Umu, what a coincidence, Pierre. I was also thinking of the same thing. If we had met under different circumstances, we might have become friends.”

Pierre was the first to make a move.

He took out balls from out of thin air — five of them. He tossed them high into the sky.

The balls stopped in midair and transformed into white doves.

The Cat Sith audience once again cheered when they saw that.

Jofre and Elize who came to sightsee — by the way, Jofre's leg was still wrapped in a cast but he would recover by tomorrow. Elize had already recovered completely — they mingled with the Cat Siths and joined in the applause and cheers.

“It's amazing Elize! Is that technique similar to the Magic Journalist talisman paper technique Milky talked about?”

“That's true? Jofre! Is that technique similar to the Magic Journalist talisman paper technique Milky talked about?”

The two of them asked while Milky who was seated behind them nodded slightly. There was a piece of gauze pasted on her cheek but there were almost no traces of burns remaining.

It's normally impossible for balls to suddenly transform into doves in midair.

However, it would be a different story if they were talisman paper used for Magic Journalist skills. Similar to how Milky materialized the drawings she drew on the paper yesterday, if doves drawn on talisman papers were inserted inside the balls created from talisman papers, he could instantly switch them in midair. Lastly, adding in a function to disintegrate would turn the talisman papers into confetti and leave no evidence.

However, if that was the case then there was one phenomenon that was impossible.

The Flaming Lion that he brought to life. Shikigami (familiar) summoning can only be performed using paper. If he used that to give life to the Flaming Lion, the Shikigami paper would burn to cinders in an instant.

However, the Flaming Lion at that time could only be a Shikigami.

Milky could not unravel that contradiction.

And then, looking at the birds above the arena, Marina raised her bow to the sky.

“Maybe you plan to turn them into confetti like just now but that highlight — I shall be taking it.”

Marina exclaimed as she released a small arrow into the sky.

The arrow that should have only been one arrow divided and the split arrows danced in the air unhindered by the wind — with movements unlike those of normal arrows — they pierced the birds.

When that happened, the birds turned into confetti just like before but that was where the similarities ended.

As if guided by the power of the wind from the arrows, the confetti rose into the sky and gathered in a single location.

Then, it happened.

Accompanied by the sound of a small explosion, the ball of gathered confetti exploded due to the power of the wind that accumulated at the same location and the confetti spread out like fireworks.

“Ou, how splendid — ”

Pierre looked up to the sky and said like he was impressed.

“Looks like the winner of this game goes to me.”

Street Performer, Marina.

She grasped the victory for a game that had no relation to the match.

However, the real match for the first match starts now.

(167) Martial arts competition for Haru and the others 9

The first match of the tournament faced a complete change from the initial street performance showdown as the match turned into a fierce battle.

The three Flaming Lions created by Pierre assaulted Marina from three directions.

If Marina was not strengthened by her second job, Hunter, she would have been wrapped in flames like Milky yesterday and suffered from severe burns.

However, there was a limit regardless of how much her status was enhanced.

The arrows shot from the Wind Bow had no effect on the Flaming Lions.

The Wind Arrow she just shot at the Flaming Lion blew away a part of it but it didn't suffer from any damage at all.

“You’re quiteee good~! However, you should realize by nowww that my lions can’t be defeateddd~? Why don’t you considerrrr~ surrenderingg?” *(TL: Don’t really know how to show the way he speaks, he pretty much just stretches the pronunciation for certain random words in the sentence.)*

“Stop babbling with that strange way of talking. It’s certainly true that these Flaming Lions are my natural enemies — but Pierre. Aren’t you at your limit too? I’m sure you can’t bring out more lions because that is the case. In other words, it is my victory once I defeat these three lions.”

“That’s right~ But, are you capable of defeatinggg them? When you can’t even see through the trick behind myyyyy Flaming Lions?”

“Hmph, I’ve already seen through it a long time ago. You used incombustible paper to create your Shikigami — that’s all there is to it.”

” !?”

Pierre’s expression distorted slightly.

Incombustible paper — just like the word implied, it was a type of paper that can’t be burnt. By soaking paper in special chemicals, it would gain resistance

towards heat.

By doing so, he was able to wrap the paper in ultra-high temperature flames and protect the Shikigami from its weakness — flames. The remaining weakness would be water but, “Your poker face has crumbled you know? Isn’t that a disqualification as a clown? You ought to be applauding how I splendidly saw through it instead.”

“I guesssss a person talented in the art of magic tricks won’t serveeee as a good audience to it. Well then, have youuuu thought of a strategy? I’ll let you know beforehanddd that it is pointless to wait for the chemical effect to wearr off! Sinceeee my Shikigami can burn for more than an hour.”

“I suppose — ”

Marina laughed but in actual fact, she was honestly waiting for its effect to expire.

There’s the possibility that Pierre was lying but her intuition was telling her that he was speaking the truth.

However, on the contrary, she had a sudden insight because of that.

The problem was if it was possible.

(I have reached the edge —)

Marina had been chased to the edge of the arena.

From that position, it would be impossible to evade all the attacks from the three Flaming Lions. She should only have been left with the option of repelling the Flaming Lions with her Wind Arrows.

However, she lowered her bow.

Everyone accepted that Marina had lost from that action.

“Marina, that’s it, surrender! We will work it out somehow!”

Kanon shouted. As the tournament does not permit surrender on behalf of the participant, she urged Marina to surrender voluntarily.

But Marina quietly laughed and said.

“Pierre. What’s wrong? I’m right here — are you not going to attack?”

Her statement made Pierre suddenly show a serious expression.

“True, it is an embarrassment as an entertainer to pause in the middle of a show — I admire your spirit so I shall send you off with a fanciful last finale.”

He declared seriously as opposed to his usual fancy tone.

“Go, my Flaming Lions!”

The three Flaming Lions attacked Marina the same time he gave the command.

At that same moment, she also charged forward. Towards Pierre.

She grabbed the neck of her mantle and tossed it.

“You can’t prevent my attack with something like that!”

Pierre shouted as the three Flaming Lions tore through that mantle.

However —

“As I had expected, the Flaming Lions have no will of their own. They can’t judge on their own — That’s why I can evade the attacks from such lions even when I have been driven to a corner as they are just enormous flames in the shape of lions.”

Marina said and pointed her Wind Bow at Pierre.

“It’s my win.”

Pierre believed that those Wind Arrows would be targeted at him.

He was always behind the Flaming Lions so he wasn’t in a position where Marina could attack him.

However — it was different now.

I’ll be shot — he thought.

However, Marina turned her back to Pierre and shot two Wind Arrows at the Flaming Lions to her left and right.

Pierre only gave one command to them against that attack — to evade.

And he immediately regretted giving that command.

The Wind Arrows were intentionally aimed slightly off. Since a command to evade that attack was given, the two Flaming Lions naturally dodged inward. And since the three Flaming Lions had already closed in on Marina for the attack, the three Flaming Lions ended up colliding against one another.

At that moment, the flames from the Flaming Lions swallowed the other lions.

“Your prided Flaming Lions that can endure an hour of regular flames — you commanded them to always attack from three directions not because you wanted to corner me but it was to prevent the Flaming Lions from affecting one another. I could immediately tell after noticing the minor movements they make. All that was left was to create the perfect timing. That was careless of you at the end Pierre, allowing them to self-destruct due to your error in command. But then again, even if you didn’t give the command, my Wind Arrow would have pushed the lions from the side and forced them inward as well. Now then, Pierre. I suggest you surrender. This match is my victory.”

” ... True, I no longer hold any means to defeat you. However, Marina-san. My lord does not permit surrender. Please use your Wind Arrow to — ”

Just as Pierre said that, Marina collapsed on the spot.

Pierre didn’t do anything at all. There was no way somebody else attacked her either.

” ... Magical power depletion huh?”

Pierre muttered quietly.

Then, Pierre lowered his head towards her.

Why she didn’t target him with those Wind Arrows — was because the power of those Wind Arrows was too strong. He would have been killed if anything went wrong. Pierre was able to notice that.

That’s why it was mortifying for Pierre.

Actually, he wanted to admit his loss. He realized that he was inferior to that lady in terms of being an entertainer as well as a fighter.

However, he was not allowed to do so.

“I am sorry — Marina-san.”

He took off his hat and bowed deeply.

Then, the judges announced Pierre as the victor.

Marina was held by Kanon who went up the stage and was brought to the medical office.

“Good job, Marina. You were splendid.”

Kanon said as she shed tears.

However, nobody considered that Marina had lost.

Nevertheless, Stella’s camp started with a defeat for the first match.

(168) Battle where death is not an option

I was with Carol at the beach.

After this, we would ride the ship and sail for the mainland. However, before that, I must defeat the resurrected monster.

After all, I have been in Sheena's care, albeit only for a short time. I have to return the favor for letting us stay the night and treating us to a meal.

It's all right. I have put in my utmost effort to train these 2 days.

Even though it's only been 2 days' worth of training, I have my ability from the two blessings bestowed upon me that allows me to grow at 400 times the speed. Furthermore, I trained 5 jobs at the same time. Although, Jobless was fixed so it was 4 jobs in actual fact. In other words, I trained at 1600 times the speed.

My hard work for 2 days was equally effective as training for 10 years. Moreover, with Sheena No.3's support, I hunted monsters at an extraordinary rate. Further furthermore, adding up all the status of my 4 jobs, my hunting strength was 4 times more than an ordinary person.

Don't worry, I've become stronger.

The current I is absolutely strong. The current I shouldn't have any monsters that I can't defeat.

I convinced myself so but I could not stop the trembling in my feet.

"Ichino-sama, are you nervous?"

"... Only a little ... It's a monster that the Demon Lord couldn't defeat after all? I was wondering if I could actually defeat something like that. Perhaps I won't be able to defeat it after all."

"I see ... it's certainly possible that you can't defeat it."

Carol said with a smile.

Eh? She affirmed it?

“I wanted you to deny it there.”

“Ichino-sama, Carol doesn’t want to die. Ichino-sama said it to me. That Carol has the right to live a happy life.”

“ ... I’m sorry for dragging you in this, Carol. However, if it becomes dangerous you can escape into My World so – – “

“Ichino-sama must come too. If Ichino-sama dies, Carol would not be able to exit from Ichino-sama’s world. I will have to spend my life together with Pionia-san and Fuyun until I die.”

“That’s true – – I definitely can’t die – – I will definitely send Carol – – no matter what happens.”

“Did that dispel your nervousness?”

Carol said as she gripped my hand.

“Perhaps Ichino-sama considered the possibility of your death but if you really did die, Carol will be sad. Haru-san will be sad and Malina-san will be sad too. Ichino-sama must definitely survive. So, like I said in the beginning, please escape if you think it is dangerous.”

“And leave Sheena to die?”

“It is not set in stone that Sheena will really die if you do not defeat the monster. Sheena only predicted that the monster will attack the island.”

Carol said so. That train of thought was well past optimistic thinking and had entered the realm of an impossible future.

However, that’s right. What Carol said was true.

If I weigh Sheena and Carol’s importance, even though I know that I shouldn’t do something like that, I want Carol to survive. After all, she has entrusted her life to me at this moment.

Not only Carol. I do not know what will happen to Haru who has become my slave once I die. The same goes for Malina.

“That’s right, I can’t die yet.”

“Yes, please live, Ichino-sama. Ichino-sama might feel that you have to hold

responsibility for Carol and the others but please do not forget that Ichino-sama has the right to chase after happiness as well.”

“ ... Carol, that’s a big misunderstanding – – My World!”

I said as I opened the door to my own world.

“After all, Haru, Malina and Carol – – I was able to meet you all. I’m already seriously happy.”

I said and entered My World where I became astonished.

“Thank you for waiting, master.”

Pionia graciously greeted me with a bow.

I had entrusted Pionia to construct a ship.

I was sure that it would be nothing more than something like a canoe. However – – sitting there was something different entirely.

“Pionia, what in the world is this – – “

“The ship – – I could only make two boats though.”

“Rather than 2 boats, it’s more like 2 ships.” *(TL: Pionia used the counter for small boats while Ichino corrected her with the counter for large boats)*

Sitting there were large sailing ships.

“Just how in the world – – what did you use for nails and such.”

“I couldn’t create a mine but I was able to create a small mining vein so I mined iron ores from it – – we had plenty of lumber so it ended up like this – – however, I used up most of my magical power – – master, could I request for magical power supplement? I’m already close to my limit.”

“Pionia, what is your opinion if I die?”

“If master dies now, Master Carol will become my new master. I will request for magical power from Master Carol.”

“Haha, you’re quite realistic.”

“I’m a homunculus after all.”

While Pionia said that, she looked like she suddenly thought of something and

added on. Her actions were way too human-like.

“If master is going to die, please supply your magical power before that happens. Master’s magical power is extremely delicious so – – I’d like it if you provide it to me while you are still alive.”

“I see, sorry but I won’t be supplying you with magical power – – I kind of have a fight waiting for me in a bit.”

“I see. That’s unfortunate. Then I shall standby here, please do not die.”

Pionia said. Is it possible that despite how she looks, she is a Tsundere? I thought to myself.

“Now then – – “

I thought as I looked at the magnificent sailing ships.

How do I send these out from here?

(169) Before the Storm

Pionia's recommendation for sending the sailing ships out was to sail a small boat off the coast during high tide and enter My World from there.

Then, during low tide, open the door below the sailing ships and drop it into the ocean.

However, widening the door just slightly will increase the MP consumption and as I am anticipating a fight, I didn't really welcome that idea.

"Er, Pionia-san ... where is that small boat meant to sail out offshore that you mentioned?"

"It's loaded inside the sailing ship."

"Eh?"

After climbing up the ladder tossed over the side of the ship leading to the deck, I found that the small boats were certainly loaded on the ship. Even though they were just rowing boats instead of regular sailboats, they were made quite sturdily. At the very least, they seem to be more robust than the boats found in the ponds of large parks.

They probably won't sink even if we use them out in the sea as long as a big wave doesn't come by.

"Pionia, I'll be using this small boat! No problems right?"

"Yes, I made it with the intention of boarding the large ship."

"It feels a little weird to ride a small boat in order to ride a large ship."

I wanted to secure the boat with rope to lower it down but after thinking about it, there was no need to lower it from the sailing ship since I could just make the portal door appear there.

All things said and done, we've secured our ship.

The next problem would – – just depend on my ability.

Regarding that, it was already too late to try to struggle and change.

I jumped down from the deck and took out cooking tools like the kitchen knife from my item bag.

“We still have time so let’s have an early lunch. Since there’s still time until the monster appears.”

“That’s true – – although, the things Carol can assist with is limited.”

Yup, I can’t say that Carol is particularly good with cooking.

“Carol doesn’t have to mind – – right. Please harvest some tomatoes.”

“Okay, Carol can do that.”

Yup yup, please level up your Harvester job.

Maybe I’ll make soup or something while waiting.

“Master, how can I help?”

“Ah. If you wish to help then please cut the dried meats into bite size.”

I applied Clean on the table.

“Yes.”

Pionia replied as she transformed her right hand into a kitchen knife and her left hand into a chopping board but she stopped moving after that.

What’s she doing? I wondered before Pionia looked like she came up with an idea and used her mouth to hold the dried meat.

“Heyyy can’t you just return your transformed right arm back to normal! Just tell me if your hands are occupied and you can’t place the meat on the chopping board. I mean, you can’t even hold down the meat with your arms occupied like that now.”

“That’s a miscalculation (blind spot).”

“That’s a huge miscalculation (blind spot).”

“Master, there is no huge miscalculation (blind spot). In the first place, a blind spot refers to the small portion of your eye that can’t detect light —”

“I know.”

It’s something like — if you draw two small dots on a piece of paper, when

you concentrate on one spot and move the paper forward and backward, sometimes you won't be able to see the other dot.

Miri taught me that a long time ago so I knew that much.

Talking with Pionia is tiring sometimes.

... I wonder if Sheena was able to enjoy conversing like this too?

If the enemy I'm facing later is as powerful as Sheena makes it out to be, it might not be an opponent I can cross swords with so maybe I really should have conversed with Sheena more. I ended up having such thoughts.

"Master, are you thinking about the Automaton Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei constructed?"

" ... Yeah, a little ..."

"If that is the case, there is no meaning in dwelling on it. The greatest wish for an Automaton is the wish of its master. Currently, master is certainly that Automaton's master but her real wish is to uphold Famiris·Raritei's wish to protect that island. If you intend to bend that wish and save that Automaton, I can only say that is master's ego speaking."

" ... That's a very direct and severe manner of speech coming from you."

"I apologize."

" ... And gentle as well — "

Even though she's an Automaton.

I swallowed those words. Or rather, I was lost for words.

The distinction between Automaton and human within me had become ambiguous.

After that, we drank soup and rested for a bit.

Pionia cleaned up the remaining soup and the tableware we used.

"Carol, shall we go?"

"Yes, Ichino-sama."

Carol nodded with a serious expression — but she didn't seem nervous.

I want to have a little of her courage.

“Carol, if you think it is dangerous, please evacuate at once.”

“Of course, I will make sure Ichino-sama evacuates too when that time comes.”

“I know. Now then, Pionia — please pray that we can get the meat of a huge monster for dinner!”

I said as I opened the door and lifted the ship.

It’s heavy — but I was able to somewhat move it.

I pushed the ship out of the door.

“Yes, master. I shall make preparations to grill it and await your return.”

“You sure specialize in grilling.”

“Because most food ingredients can be consumed once it passes through fire.”

That looked to be Pionia’s mantra.

Although I personally felt that it was better to stew instead.

I thought as we returned to the beach.

The sea was extremely calm and the sound of the waves was quiet as well.

(170) Anxiety before the fight

As the boat drifted away from the coast, I jumped into the boat and stretched my hand towards Carol who was following behind.

Carol grabbed my hand and climbed onto the boat.

“Our feet are soaked now.”

“Yeah — it’s a good thing we brought 2 pairs of shoes.”

I bought hiking shoes at Gomaki village so I had changed into those when I was running on the coast.

Since it would have been a problem if I got a wound from running along the coast. There were considerably sized rocks around after all. I would be able to treat any injuries using healing magic but it would have been troublesome if I got some strange infection from the wound.

Naturally, there weren’t any doctors or hospitals on the deserted island so getting a bacterial infection might be life-threatening.

When I went barefoot by taking off my shoes, Carol also followed me and took off her shoes and we poured the water in our shoes off the boat.

Carol’s small feet were revealed.

“Now then, I guess I’ll start rowing.”

“Ichino-sama, should I row too?”

“No, it’s the guy’s role to row on a rowing boat after all.”

I held the oar securely and rowed.

“I guess the last time I rowed a boat was about 5 years ago — immediately after I graduated from middle school.”

Miri was still an elementary school student at that time. During summer break on a day our parents were away for work, we went to a park together and rowed a boat.

Until today, I still clearly recall Miri saying “Hey Onii, Miri is no longer a child

so I won't be happy with something like this." even though she was still an elementary school student.

At that time, that small pond felt extremely wide. We reached the opposite shore of the pond a minute before we would have had to pay additional by missing the appointed time. It would have been seriously dangerous if a strange gust didn't blow us towards the boat landing area. And I remember Miri looking quite exhausted perhaps because she was seasick from the sudden gust. She was as exhausted as I am when I reach magical power exhaustion.

Never in my wildest dreams would I imagine that I would now be sailing out into the ocean with a rowing boat.

Thankfully the waves were calm so the ship didn't sway much. To the extent that I felt that I was shaken more when I rode on a horse carriage.

I thought to myself that once this was all over, it might be fun to have a relaxed journey by sailing on the sailboat and passing time by doing something like fishing.

Thanks to my status increase, rowing the boat didn't tire me at all and my speed was much faster compared to when I last rowed a boat in Japan.

I wonder how far should I row the boat until? By now, the island was but a faint shadow.

"Well then, shall we wait here? — "

The biggest problem was where the monster would appear from.

She mentioned that it would appear around the island but I didn't ask her for the exact location. It would be troublesome if it appeared at the opposite side from us but I took a gamble.

However, Carol discovered that inside the uninhabited labyrinth, the monsters spawned more frequently at the southeast so I sailed the boat to the northeast.

If you're wondering why not to the southeast, it's because I would not have the leeway to intercept the monster if the monster appears directly below the boat, I would be too busy avoiding it.

“Carol, in your opinion, what kind of nasty monsters live in the ocean?”

“Let me see, a famous legendary monster would be the Sea Serpent.”

“A huge snake huh — ”

“Sightings of other monsters include the Spirit monsters Lorelei that sink ships with their songs, single-horned whales the size of islands, or the Big Black Shark that’s feared for consuming ships is also famous ... but the Demon Lord should be able to defeat those.”

“I don’t feel like I would be able to defeat a single-horned whale the size of an island though.”

“Don’t worry, their weakness is Thunder so Ichino-sama will be able to defeat it easily with Boost Thunder.”

... Carol’s belief in me is way too high. I seriously don’t believe I can defeat a monster the size of an island.

“In addition, there are many other mythological monsters of the sea.”

“Really?”

“Yes. A huge octopus called a Kraken, also — ”

It happened when Carol was about to say something.

The waves surged — and the ship was swept about as if we were being sucked into the sea.

“This presence — tch, this is out of my expectations.”

My monster Presence Detection skill captured it instead of my Enemy Detection skill and I looked towards it.

A shark flew up from below the ocean surface like a flying fish.

“Ichino-sama, is this the monster?”

“No! Slash!”

It was a slight expenditure of MP but it was better than using magic.

The shark aiming for the boat was shot down by the Slash attack released from my knife hand pose.

That's right, the shark died from just that — there's no way that kind of small fry would be something the Demon Lord fail to defeat.

In addition —

“More of them incoming.”

Not only the shark, numerous monsters were surfacing on the ocean surface. They were the monsters that were not detected by my Enemy Detection skill even though the bottom of the ocean isn't that far away.

This was most likely due to the revival of the monster Sheena No.3 talked about.

The monsters inside the ocean were escaping to the ocean surface — and the agitated monsters attacked the enemies they were unaccustomed to — in other words, us.

“Give me a break, just escape and leave us be! Slash!”

I cut down the monster that came to assault our boat this time, a large octopus (not a Kraken). The octopus ink polluted the ocean but when that washed away, a shark appeared next.

My MP would be depleted even before the actual monster appears if this continued on.

That being said, if I allowed the monsters to approach until I can reach them with a sword, a small boat like this would sink in the blink of the eye.

We were in a bigger pinch than I had imagined.

(171) The name of the strongest monster

It looked like there was no end to the monster numbers.

Even though it wasn't as much as the numbers from the labyrinth near Ferruit, I didn't expect this many monsters here.

"Most likely the surrounding monsters gathered after being exposed to the miasma from the revived monster — "

Carol said. It's true that these monster numbers could only be explained that way.

It wasn't limited to only large monsters, there were also large shoals of small sardine-like fishes passing below the boat.

It wasn't as if all the monsters were coming towards the boat, only the monsters who were coincidentally escaping in the boat's direction got agitated and attacked.

If it's like this, maybe I should open the door to My World for now and escape there before coming out with another boat — no, I can't do that.

It is dangerous to open the door without ensuring the safety of the surroundings.

It's better I leave it for when we really have to escape completely.

Since that is the case, I guess I'll have to use magic and 「Slash」 to cut down just the dangerous monsters —

Just as I was thinking that.

A gigantic turtle appeared.

It looked like it would be hard to break its shell with 「Slash」 so I guess I'll have to resort to magic —

「Charm」!"

Carol shouted. Charm is a magic useable by Temptress or Song Magician that once cast, is able to make monsters become their allies for a certain duration.

When that happened, the turtle stuck its head out of its shell and turned around, poising itself in front of us to protect the boat.

“Ichino-sama, Carol is here too! We should be able to endure with this!”

“Thanks, Carol!”

After that, the fish monsters slammed into the turtle’s body and bit at it but they were not able to crack the monster turtle’s shell. I guess I have to thank the turtle for protecting us at the expense of wounds on its shell.

Then, after dozens of minutes passed, there were no more monsters.

“Ichino-sama, I will release the charm on the turtle. Let’s leave this area for now.”

“Okay.”

After all, we would be attacked by the turtle once the charm was dispelled if we stayed there. Even though it happened while it was charmed, I don’t want to kill the turtle that protected us.

After moving the boat and dispelling the charm condition, the turtle sunk back into the ocean on the spot.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

【Water Magician skill: 「Water Magic V」acquired】

【There are no further levels for Water Magician】

【Title: Peak of Water Magician acquired】

【Wind Magician skill: 「Wind Magic V」acquired】

【There are no further levels for Wind Magician】

【Title: Peak of Wind Magician acquired】

【Title: Four Elements Magician acquired】

【Job: Light Magician is now available】

【Job: Dark Magician is now available】

With that just now, I had finally reached the peak for the remaining two jobs.

My current jobs, excluding Jobless, the four elements Magician jobs were at counter stop.

I should have become ... the greatest Magician class in the world.

“The wind ... has stopped.”

Carol commented.

Due to the lull, the ocean surface was calm.

“Carol, when the enemy appears, I will be releasing 「Boost Thunder」. In my current condition, I can easily shoot 5 shots of it.”

Lightning should be effective since it's a sea monster. The power of a Boost Thunder that expends ten times the MP of a regular Thunder should work on any monster.

Carol nodded to my words.

At that moment.

Thunder clouds suddenly gathered above head and the sky became dark.

What's happening? Just as I was pondering that.

A whirlpool appeared on the ocean surface a distance away and strong winds buffeted the boat, rocking it greatly.

“Carol, hold on tightly! My World!”

I opened the door to My World.

“Thunder clouds — Mighty monster — Don't tell me.”

Carol cried out like she had a hunch.

From within the whirlpool, a huge blue snake — no, a dragon-like monster appeared.

What amazing size — but even so, I can do it now.

I poised my wand and was about to release my magic but — “Ichino-sama, don't!”

Carol exclaimed.

“A spell like that will not work on that monster — the sea’s demon lord, Leviathan.”

“Leviathan!? Carol, do you know about that monster?”

“It is a dragon race capable of manipulating thunder, known as the demon lord of the sea. Carol has only heard about it from legends. It is a mighty monster that even the six pillar Goddesses would have difficulty with. It is said that the Goddesses had no choice but to kill the male Leviathan as the world would perish if its child was born.”

A monster that the Goddesses have difficulty with, what absurdity.

“Thunder and water, it has strong resistance to both.”

“It’s weakness?”

“It is said to be able to endure any kind of Light Magic and that those tough scales cannot be penetrated by any sword. Wind Magic is originally meant for area attacks so it doesn’t have enough power while Earth Magic cannot exert sufficient power in an environment like the sea — also, the lore mentioned that it is capable of calling thunder clouds so most likely Thunder Magic is also — ”

“Doesn’t that mean it is practically invincible!”

“Fire Magic might perhaps work ...”

Fire Magic huh ... then I’ll have to use that ...

“I’ve acquired 「Fire Magic V」 so I plan to use 「Ancient Nova (Ancient Purifying Flames)」 with 「Boost」.”

“「Ancient Nova」— Carol has heard of it before. It’s said to be the pinnacle of magic that was used by angels to purify evil monsters. Only a few people in this world, including the Magician Hagg-sama, is capable of casting it.” [TL: *Translated the Magician’s name as Hack previously (the companion of Hero Alessio) but the pronunciation is nearer to hug/hag]*

“I’ve only learned it recently and have not tried it before. Since I felt that it would have been a waste of MP. I don’t know how would it turn out after using boost and expending ten times the MP but I’ll have to give it a try. I’ll open the door to My World so if I lose consciousness from Magical Power Depletion,

please drag me into the hole.”

I said and poised my Rod of Asclepius.

At that moment, the Leviathan stared at a different direction away from us.

That direction was —

“Not good!”

The horn on the Leviathan’s head released lightning that swallowed the island that we stayed on just this morning.

(172) Ancient Nova

The Leviathan's attack swallowed the island and the island's shape changed in a blink of the eye.

"Sheena!"

That can no longer be called lightning. Isn't that an Eldritch Blast that consumes everything?

"Ichino-sama, that attack was only aimed at the surface! Since the labyrinth is deep underground, Sheena should be all right."

"I know ... but —"

Is she really fine?

That labyrinth is not a normal labyrinth but an artificial labyrinth. There were things like pipes trailing here and there.

I can't imagine the facility's equipment surviving being bathed in lightning. If just the air conditioning breaks down in that underground labyrinth, the monkeys would suffocate to death.

The Leviathan began moving.

It intends to get closer to the island.

"Ichino-sama, quickly, your spell!"

"I know — but, I can't get an aim on it."

I've not used Ancient Nova even once until then so I didn't know the speed and the size of the flames. Moreover, since I was adding Boost to it, I didn't know the speed even more. If only there's a way to make it stop for a moment —

Or rather, I missed my greatest opportunity just now.

The Leviathan stopped for a split second when it released that attack.

I would have been able to somehow pull it off at that time.

But I couldn't wait for that to happen again.

Since there was no guarantee that Sheena won't die from the next attack.

If that's the case, I just have to aim at it —

(If only Marina was here, I could probably hit it if I follow her instructions.)

I knew that I couldn't hope for something that wasn't possible but I wanted to somehow make it such that I won't miss.

"Ichino-sama, it is fine as long as you aim it in the direction of the enemy. And Carol also has a plan that might work."

"Plan?"

"Carol will dive into the sea — below the boat. The effect of the Temptress skill manifests even during the day when Carol is underground — since that is the case, it might work if Carol dives down under the ocean surface as well. Carol has the bucket we used to throw water out of the boat. If Carol turns this upside down, Carol can have enough air to last underwater for a couple of minutes."

"Carol, your Captivating Fragrance of the Moon is a skill that invites monsters with smell! Even if it is only released in the air pocket made by the wooden bucket, if that smell spreads into the ocean — "

"Carol heard that sharks can smell blood from a kilometer away — In the first place, Carol doesn't know either if Carol's skill works on the Leviathan."

" ... I will release my magic the moment the Leviathan changes direction. Immediately return to the boat after that. Even if the Leviathan doesn't change direction and I don't release my magic, swim back to the boat once two minutes pass. If that saying about the sharks' olfactory sense is true, even if it doesn't work on the Leviathan, there's a high possibility that the smell will cause the monsters that escaped just now to turn back."

"Okay. Carol swears on this slave collar that Carol will definitely follow Ichino-sama's orders."

Carol nodded as she turned over a large bucket to capture air and prepared to jump into the sea.

"Carol, the boat might sway greatly once I release my magic. Be careful not to

hit your head.”

“Yes, Carol prays for Ichino-sama’s fortune in battle.”

Carol said that and dove into the sea.

I heard the sound of the bucket hitting the bottom of the boat. She probably pressed the bucket against there to stabilize it.

I didn’t count how much time passed.

If the Leviathan showed any gesture of releasing the next attack, I would immediately move to attack.

After all, if I allowed the next Leviathan attack, I would lose the meaning for this battle.

Then — a minute passed.

The Leviathan opened its large mouth and gathered power at its horn.

Shit, I can’t wait any longer!

I thought.

“Boost Ancient —”

As I was about to cast my magic, lightning suddenly retracted from the Leviathan’s horn.

Then, it changed its direction.

Towards us.

(You’ve done it, Carol!)

The Leviathan was heading straight in our direction.

In this situation, neither the attack speed nor the enemy’s speed would matter.

Aiming directly straight at the enemy would most likely hit.

“Carol, hold on tight! You better not drown!”

I shouted,

“「Boost Ancient Nova」!”

and released my magic.

I was immediately struck with the sensation of my energy being uprooted and snatched from my body.

It was a sensation I had not felt until then, an intense feeling of weakness greater than when I had magical power depletion.

At the same time, a minutely small grain of flame was released from my wand.

Its speed was quicker than the eye could capture but I wondered what was the meaning of such a flame.

That flame struck the Leviathan.

Then, there was an impact. It wasn't an explosion or a blast.

All the surrounding space was absorbed and the released Big Bang-like destructive power swept the boat backward greatly. *(TL: The direct translation was Big Van-like but it didn't make any sense at all ... unless he was referring to truck-san? lol)*

"Carol —!"

"Ichino-sama!"

The rolling waves swept Carol but I grabbed the hand she stretched out. I felt like I was about to lose consciousness from the feeling of weakness but I summoned the last of my strength and pulled her up to the boat in one go.

"Was it defeated?"

Carol said as she stared at the Leviathan that was still caught within the blast flames.

"Of course. If it survives that, I no longer have any chance of winning — ah"

That's when I came to a realisation.

My level didn't rise.

Even though my Fire, Water, Wind and Earth Magicians were at the peak, my Jobless job still has room to level up.

If my level didn't go up, it meant —

I wanted to think that it was a condition whereby its experience points didn't come in because it was a boss but it was wishful thinking.

Because a gigantic body appeared from within the flames that was clearing up.

It survived. It was considerably weakened but it was still alive.

” ... Its wounds are closing up.”

It was beginning to self-regenerate.

Does that mean now is the only time to defeat it?

“I'll release the same magic again.”

“That's reckless, Ichino-sama! Your magical power won't sustain it! Not only is it doubtful if Ichino-sama's magic will activate with your current condition, we also don't know what will happen if you activate it! Magical Power Boost might be a trump card for magicians to use during important battles but at the same time, it is also a dangerous magic! If Ichino-sama dies — ”

“Carol will not be able to leave My World and Pionia would also be troubled ... but, there's Torerul-sama. That person will most likely come to my world to slack. You can appeal to Torerul-sama when that time comes — I can tell from that attack from the Leviathan just now. If that thing reaches the continent where there are countless people, thousands or tens of thousands of people will die.”

Coming to this world, I thought that I will be able to do anything with my growth cheat power and Jobless cheat power. No, I believe I can do it.

Therefore, if I don't defeat it, who will!

“Prepare yourself, Leviathan! Boost —”

— 『Gan』

A dull sound struck the back of my head and my weakened body suffered immense damage.

When I collapsed, I saw the figure of Carol crying while holding onto the oar.

“Ichino-sama, sorry. But Carol cannot live without Ichino-sama.”

Carol said as she pulled my body and entered My World — at the same time, my consciousness once again fell into darkness.

※ ※ ※

The shadows of two human-like beings that suddenly disappeared and the flames that assaulted it just now. And the mysterious smell that controlled its consciousness. The Leviathan that was being wary of all that detected the appearance of a new presence.

“I thought I saw a huge explosion — what happened?”

A human girl on the island said while laughing.

The Leviathan bared its fangs.

Because even though the appearance was different, it could detect that it was the human that asserted itself as the Demon Lord, the one who sealed it.

Then, as the Leviathan was about to release lightning, “For you who haven’t regenerated your horn, you are out of your depth challenging me. 「Thousand Dark Swords」.”

She — the reincarnated Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei — Kusunoki Miri released a gigantic sword of Darkness that pierced the body of the Leviathan and that darkness swallowed its body.

Then, in the end, all that remained was a calm sea and a burnt island — as well as a small unmanned boat.

(173) Miri and Sheena

After ascertaining the Leviathan's death, Miri turned around and looked at the condition of the island.

Due to the lightning strike, the island's shape had been completely transformed and there was not a single vestige left of its past look.

(Amazing power ... I didn't think that it would revive. Who was it exactly who did that strike on the Leviathan?)

The faces of the Hero Alessio and the Magician Hagg floated across her mind but she shook her head.

It would have been a lot more troublesome if they were capable of something like that. She intuitively felt that it was more likely to be that perverted magic engineer Daijiro.

She didn't know how it happened and where that attack came from but if her conjecture was true, she would prefer to leave the island as soon as possible. She thought to herself as she headed for the center of the island.

Perhaps because of a fault in the drainage system, the man-made hot spring had dried up and the underground entrance was exposed.

Miri looked at the hole that extended below ground as she summoned Fenrir from the space and rode his back.

"Go down."

Obedying her command, Fenrir ran down the wall with Miri on its back.

Then, immediately before they crashed into the floor, Fenrir vanished into nothing and Miri leaped into a large hole to the side.

She continued walking down the passage as if nothing happened and leaped up another hole that led upward.

She came upon a place with many trees growing and the monkey monsters welcomed Miri.

The monsters were prostrating on the ground at Miri as if a new boss monkey

was born but Miri ignored them and continued to the depths of the labyrinth.

(The damage is terrible. I don't think it will collapse but it will be difficult to continue functioning as a labyrinth.)

Miri thought to herself that thankfully the lighting was still functional as she proceeded to the depths.

There weren't any signs of monsters. After all, even if the labyrinth retained its function, monsters probably won't spawn excessively here anymore due to the death of the Leviathan.

Miri continued walking forward and entered the hidden room.

Waiting for her there was the work doll that looked exactly the same as before.

She looked at Miri and spoke.

"978-4-7753"

She listed a string of numbers.

" ... Eh?"

Miri heard what she said but she couldn't comprehend it.

"Please answer. I will not recognize you as master unless you give the correct answer."

The work doll continued speaking.

In response, Miri raised her fist.

"Do you not recognize your owner's magical power!"

And sent a horizontal punch to the back of her head.

" ... Magical power recognized. Grandmaster recognized. It's been a long time, grandmaster."

Work Doll No.417 said with a voice without any intonation. It didn't feel like a reunion after tens of years at all.

"It's been a long time, Sheena."

"Grandmaster. Unfortunately, No.417's name has already been assigned.

Please refer to me with the correct designation.”

“Did someone else come here and become your master? ... Oh well, it doesn’t matter. So, what is your new name?”

“Sheena No.3.”

“Why number 3!?”

“Famiris•Raritei-sama and Daijiro-sama also named Sheena No.3 as Sheena so I appended No.3 to distinguish between the names.”

“Daijiro ... So Sheena’s second master was Daijiro ... that pervert would certainly be able to decipher Sheena’s personal identification number.” *(TL: The personal identification number is referring to the string of numbers Sheena asks, which is also the light novel identification number for the first volume of Growth Cheat lol.)*

Miri nodded but never in her wildest dreams would she think that she can obtain No.417’s personal identification number just by asking her.

“Since Daijiro was managing this place, the third person is probably an acquaintance of Daijiro ... hn, then the person who hurt the Leviathan was Daijiro after all.”

“Grandmaster, correction. The third master knows about Daijiro-sama but not the other way around, so they are not acquaintances.”

“Eh? Is that so?”

“Leaving that aside, Grandmaster. May I ask a question?”

“A question from Sheena? That’s rare. Sure.”

“Has the Leviathan been destroyed?”

“Yeah, I beat it. But it was quite substantially weaker. At my current condition, I won’t even be able to seal it if it retained its original strength so it’s quite a lucky break. My level also went up by 10 in one shot.”

“I see.”

Sheena smiled slightly — or so it seemed to Miri.

“By the way, Sheena. There should be a jewel sealed here but do you know

about it?”

“Affirmative. I was asked to safe keep it by Master Daijiro. I handed it to former master this morning.”

“Wait a minute, this morning? Your previous master was here this morning?”

“Affirmative. I asked him to evacuate before the Leviathan revived.”

Miri pondered to herself after Sheena confirmed it.

In other words, looking at the circumstances, it was most likely the previous master who dealt that much damage to the Leviathan.

However, after defeating the Leviathan, she stretched her shadow a couple of kilometers to the surroundings but her Detect Enemy skill did not perceive anybody inside or outside the island.

The only object was an unmanned boat.

There was a faint residue of magical power remaining on that small boat so she believed that the person escaped using transfer magic or something.

“Who exactly was that previous master?”

Sheena perceived Miri’s mutterings as a question.

And she answered.

“His name was Ichinojo. Job class Jobless. A 20-year old male.”

Miri tensed up when she heard her words.

The room was silent before Miri returned to normal after a minute.

“Onii was here?”

“Negative, the person that was here was a male called Ichinojo.”

“Like I said — Argh, forget it! Did that Ichinojo person say where he was headed?”

“He mentioned that he would return to Port Kobe on the Western Continent.”

“Port Kobe ... it’s all right. Onii is still alive. Onii is definitely on his way to Port Kobe.”

Ichinojo was unaware but Work Doll No.417 was set to automatically recognize the next human she discovers as her master if her previous master passed away. Because of that, Daijiro did not need to answer her personal identification number to become No.417's master.

And then Daijiro ordered her to provide the answer if she was ever asked about her personal identification number.

Because he felt that it was more interesting that way.

And because Sheena asked for her personal identification number just now, it confirmed that Miri's brother, Ichinojo, was alive.

"Sheena, we shall go to Port Kobe immediately. You're coming along too."

"Are you sure?"

"The Leviathan is already dead so you no longer need to stay here! More importantly, chasing after Onii takes precedence! I'll make full use of your ability."

Miri said as she grabbed Sheena's hand and used transfer magic to first return to Korat to meet up with Norn and Kanon.

(174) Beyond level 99

When I regained consciousness, I felt damp earth below me as well as a dull pain in the back of my head.

When I opened my heavy eyelids, I saw a white space in front of my eyes — I thought I had passed away for an instant but that wasn't the case.

I was currently inside My World.

And while I was in the process of regaining consciousness, Pionia peered at my face.

"Master, have you awoken?"

I answered her question that was posed without any intonation.

"How long was I asleep?"

"About 249 seconds."

About 4 minutes — it wasn't a long duration at all but it was plenty of time for the Leviathan to trample on the island.

"Master, although you've just woke up, please assist to release Master Carol."

"Carol?"

Then, I noticed Carol who was beside me with a face of agony.

"Carol, what's wrong!?"

"Her slave collar is constricting her — Please quickly touch the slave collar and loosen it."

"O, okay!"

I hurriedly touched her slave collar.

Upon doing so, her expression immediately eased up.

"What exactly happened —"

"A slave attacked their owner. This kind of punishment is natural."

” I see.”

I forgot. Carol was a slave. It was absolutely forbidden for her to resist her owner.

Nevertheless, Carol defied me — this was the price of her actions.

“I’ll apply healing magic immediately —”

“Master, please wait. Master’s magical power has not recovered at all. If you used healing magic now — ”

“I know. But although it’s pitiful, I rather lose consciousness than not do anything now.”

So I applied Petit Heal on Carol and grandly collapsed.

I woke up again after another 2 hours.

Carol still had not regained consciousness. It was tough not knowing the situation outside.

Perhaps it was already night time outside.

Just as I was thinking that.

“It’s been a long time, boy.”

Koshmar-sama appeared before my eyes.

I was shocked by her sudden visit but I was also slightly relieved.

“It’s been a long time, Koshmar-sama.”

“Oya, it’s the first time you didn’t call me an Orc the moment you saw me.”

“That’s true ... I don’t have the leeway to have such thoughts at the moment.”

“Is that so? ... I watched a little of your fight. Sorry, but I can’t exert much power on this present world.”

“It’s all right, Goddesses seem to have their own rules too so I’m not in the position to question you.”

If I spoke my true intention, I would want to ask why did the Goddesses not defeat the female too when they defeated the male Leviathan.

“There were various circumstances regarding that incident too.”

Koshmar-sama said apologetically after reading my thoughts.

“Don’t worry, I brought this upon myself because I was conceited but lacked strength.”

“The Leviathan is dead.”

” ... Eh?”

The Leviathan is dead. Those words made me speechless.

“What do you ... mean?”

After I finally squeezed out those words, Koshmar-sama explained further.

“Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei has resurrected and dealt the final blow to the weakened Leviathan. Incidentally, he/she took that automata you were attached to along with him/her.” *(TL: The sentence was gender neutral.)*

” ... I’m glad.”

Instead of getting surprised by the news that Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei has resurrected, I was more relieved by the knowledge that Sheena was all right.

“Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei is currently traveling to Port Kobe. Child, I wish that you head there too.”

“All right. The Demon Lord is Haru’s — my companion’s benefactor so I also know that the Demon Lord is not just an evil being. I have to thank the Demon Lord for the incident this time after all and I was originally planning to go to Port Kobe too. Did Koshmar-sama come here for the sake of telling me that?”

“No, there’s another troublesome matter.”

“That’s right, when I reached Lv90, I acquired some strange skill —”

“I am aware of that too — I can’t tell you the specifics at this moment but it is a skill that doesn’t give any problems as long as you don’t use a transfer circle so please go about your daily life without using transfer circles for a while.”

As suspected, it was because of that skill that I was transferred to the island.

“As a preface, the limit we Goddesses placed on all jobs that we configured is

set to be Lv99. And only a very limited number of jobs can reach Lv99. For example, the Jobless and Commoner jobs are configured to only reach up to Lv99.”

“I see. Then, my Jobless job would reach counter stop soon.”

“It seems like you have not noticed yet.”

“Noticed?”

“Child, your Jobless job has reached Lv99.”

” ... Eh?”

That’s a lie, did my Jobless job reach counter stop without me noticing?

I checked my jobs.

【Jobless Lv99 Fire Magician Lv60★ Water Magician Lv60★ Wind Magician Lv60★ Earth Magician Lv60★】

It was true, it had reached Lv99. I didn’t notice since I didn’t acquire any skills.

.... Eh?

“Have you noticed? That’s the thing. Even though it should be the level limit, your Jobless job did not reach the peak. That is extremely troublesome. What exactly would happen once you reach Lv100? In the first place, will you even be able to reach Lv100? Even I, as a Goddess, do not know the answer — Of course, I do not intend to stop your growth. On my side, it would be better to have information on it after all. However, remember this. Just like the skill you acquired at Lv90, keep in mind that not all the skills you learn are beneficial to you.”

Not all skills are my ally ...

“Child, it is still not too late. You can still erase the Jobless job with your Job Change skill. The choice is up to you.”

After saying that, Koshmar-sama began to fade.

Lastly,

“For now, take a good rest..”

She left with those words.

Then, I —

(175) Haru's martial arts competition (Vice-captain battle)

The vice-captain match (fourth match) for the Cat Sith King determining tournament was fierce.

For the second match, Stella and Prince Maru put up a good fight but the brainwashed Maru drove Stella back with relentless attacks and she had to surrender when her sword broke.

The third match was a match between swordsmen which might become the deciding match if Haru and her team lost. The match between Haru and the swordsman dressed in black ended literally in an instant.

Before anyone noticed it, the swordsman dressed in black collapsed after Haru appeared behind him. Not to mention showing off his skill with the sword, he didn't even have the chance to name himself.

And so, the vice-captain match began.

Kanon's opponent was a Pugilist — a mass of muscle of a man named Boride. In the beginning, that man was very much at ease.

“(You understand right, Kanon)”

The man spoke to Kanon in a volume only audible to her.

Kanon nodded without a word.

Valf had instructed Kanon to lose in that match. That was why the opponent could afford to be complacent. Boride intended to sink Kanon into the ground with a single strike but Kanon dodged that strike by a paper-thin margin.

For two whole hours since the start — Kanon had single-mindedly and continuously avoided his attacks.

“What is the meaning of this, Kanon! Why do you keep dodging!”

Boride bellowed in a loud voice. You would imagine that the audience would begin to question why she didn't attack back but the reality was different. They

were wondering why the attacks weren't hitting her.

It wasn't like all the attacks weren't connecting.

As Kanon was avoiding his attacks with the smallest possible movements to conserve her stamina, fine scratches could be seen on her, born from the force accompanying the fists.

As the Cat Siths were beginning to tire of the match which had no end in sight, they started booing and a riot might even begin.

However —

“Shut up! Who dares to insult fighters who are giving their all to fight.”

Marina reproached them.

And together with Haru, Norn and the first princess Stella's intimidation, the riot was suppressed.

Naturally, Haru and the others, as well as Marina, were not aware of the reason for her inexplicable behavior.

However, they believed in her. That there was a reason behind her actions.

Marina only knew that the light in Kanon's eyes shone brighter with each passing minute.

Then, as the sun began to set, the tournament staff started preparing bonfires.

“Finally here!”

Kanon who had been silent since the beginning shouted that.

Countless bats descended from the sky and transformed into a human figure.

A man with blood-like crimson pupils wearing a black mantle glared at Kanon.

“What do you intend to — ”

“It's been a long time, Earl.”

Kanon stopped moving and made a bow at that man — Valf.

“Did you not hear my command?”

“No, of course, I heard it — however.”

Then, Kanon stretched her arm to her back while still smiling.

The black blade held in her hand pierced through the belly of Boride who was trying to attack her from behind and he collapsed on the spot.

“The winner is Kanon nya! Medical team please quickly carry Participant Boride away nya!”

“Kanon is the winner nya! Quickly, medical team carry Participant Boride away nya!”

The judges declared Kanon’s victory and instructed for Boride to be transported to the medical office.

After doing so, Kanon addressed Valf.

“The captain’s match after this will be during the night where you can participate without any penalty. Why not grasp victory with your own hands as the captain?”

Kanon bowed and descended from the arena.

“Kanon, I knew that you would win. Leaving that aside, do you know that man?”

To Marina’s question, Kanon answered with a wry smile “Kind of, in the past —” as she faced Norn who was acting stiff.

For this tournament, Norn was the most unrelated as well as being the weakest. As someone who was practically as strong as a regular person, the role of captain was probably a heavy weight on her.

“Kanon-san, you welcomed him when he came so were you waiting for that person to arrive?”

“Hn? White Wolf Tribe Onee-san, you know the Earl?”

“Yes, I’ve seen him once when I was young. If I remember correctly, he is a vampire who served Demon Lord-sama and according to Demon Lord-sama’s words, he is an untrustworthy person.”

“That’s correct. He is a person that you must not trust no matter what.”

Haru asked with an irritated voice while Kanon stared off into the distance.

“Why did you wait for him to come? Vampires are weak towards sunlight. If you won while it was still bright, won’t we have an advantage during the captain’s match?”

“Ah, regarding that. The person I was waiting for was not the Earl.”

After she said that, the judges moved to the center of the arena.

“Participant Boride’s condition is not life-threatening so once again, this match’s victory goes to Participant Kanon!”

“Participant Boride’s condition is not life-threatening so once again, this match’s victory goes to Participant Kanon!”

After hearing those two judges announce the same sentence word for word, Norn let out a small sigh of relief.

“I’ll give it a try since I have nothing to lose. After all, killing the opponent is forbidden so I won’t die.”

As Norn said that, Kanon, with an apologetic smile, “Ah, about that, I have not told you yet.”

She said as she scratched her forehead.

Before Kanon explained herself, the two judges called for the next participant.

“With no further ado, for the king determining tournament, Captain Valf please step up.”

“With no further ado, for the king determining tournament, Captain Miryuu please step up.”

The members apart from Kanon thought that there was an error in the name called.

However, they did not hear it wrong.

An enormous white wolf descended from the sky.

And a young girl jumped down from that white wolf.

“Seriously, Kanon, Norn, what are you thinking, leaving the inn without letting

me know!”

The Captain Miryuu looked like she was extremely angry.

(176) Haru's martial arts competition (Captain battle)

"Participant Miryuu right? The match is starting nya!"

The Cat Sith judge invited Miri to the center of the arena. But Miri turned around to glare at that Cat Sith,

"Shut up, I'll be done soon so wait!"

"Yes nya!"

The judge was silenced with a single gesture.

Then, Miri drew near to Kanon.

"What is with this fuss?"

"Pardon me — that person there is General Earl Valf from the Demon Lord's Army."

"Demon Lord's Army General?"

Miri looked at Valf with a displeased look.

"Why is something like that carrying the name of the Demon Lord's Army General. Kanon, you seem a lot stronger to me!"

"Well, there's that but — incidentally, Ichinojo Onii-san was given a hard time by that Earl and if it went badly, he would have been swallowed by tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of monsters — so personally I just want to kill him."

" ... Ohh, is that so?"

At that instant, the air felt like it was freezing over.

Among them, Haru who was the most sensitive to such changes felt the hair on her whole body stand on end.

And, naturally, Valf also sensed it.

"Wha, you, who exactly are you?"

"I see ... you have yet to notice my true identity. Well then, Demon Lord Army

General Valf-san — feel free to ask the Goddess or whoever after you die!”

Miri thrust her hand forward.

“[Darkness Bomb]

Immediately after she cast it.

Valf’s body exploded and scattered in all directions. Not to mention feeling shocked, there wasn’t even time to notice what happened.

Even if Valf can split his body into bats, he could no longer revive once his body was blasted to pieces.

Twelve years since the death of the Demon Lord Famiris•Raritei. The vampire who danced in the shadows died an abrupt and disappointing death.

“Wha, what just happened!”

Marina exclaimed. It wasn’t unreasonable as a person’s body was blasted apart without anyone having touched him.

Even though they knew that she had cast a spell, that spell was quite uncommon and different in nature compared to other spells so other than Miri who cast the spell and Kanon, everyone else failed to close their mouths in shock.

“I converted the power of darkness that demons have into energy and caused an explosion. You might have heard rumors regarding it, it is a deadly spell to the demons.”

“Explosion using the power of darkness? Maybe it’s something like Akumaito ray?” *(TL: Reference to Go! Go! Ackman)*

When Marina muttered that under her breath, Miri looked at her and said.

“It doesn’t really have the power to amplify the power of darkness within them so it is a difficult-to-use spell that has no effect on normal humans.”

As Miri descended from the arena, the judge declared the winner.

“Killing the opponent is an infringement of the rules nya! And so, this match — Oi, get a hold of yourself nya!”

One of the Cat Sith judges wanted to announce the winner but he noticed

that the other judge had still not returned to reality so he elbowed his stomach.

Then, just as the other Cat Sith judge returned to reality and was about to announce the victory of Prince Maru.

“Please wait nya. This match is our loss nya.”

Prince Maru went up the arena.

“We were being manipulated by that monster called Valf. And I handed him the Cat Sith’s national treasure, the Far-sight Crystal Ball nya. A person like me do not have the right to — ”

“That’s not true nya! Maru-onii was strong nya! Even though you were being manipulated, that sword technique was the real deal nya!”

Stella ran up the arena and took Maru’s hand.

“I believe Maru-onii will be a splendid king nya! I will help out too nya!”

“I, I will help too so I wish to stay by your side nya.”

And Stella’s younger brother Mikke appeared and grasped Maru’s hand as well.

” ... Stella. Mikke. Thank you nya.”

Those three Cat Siths decided to work together and make the country flourish while the other Cat Siths clapped and praised their names.

At that time, Haurvatat approached them and asked.

“Prince Maru — you mentioned that you passed the Far-sight Crystal Ball to Valf so where would it be now —”

“I don’t know nya. I think we will have to assume that it has fallen into the hands of the Demon Lord’s army nya ... even though this village had a strong friendship with Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei, we lost contact after the demon lord was subjugated ... I’m sorry. Even though you need it to look for Ichinojo-dono who is my younger sister and my father’s benefactor — ”

Miri moved forward when Prince Maru said that.

Then, she stood beside Haurvatat, looked up at her and said.

“One moment.”

“Yes — you are — Miryuu-dono right? Thank you for lending your strength just now —”

“Port Kobe. Ichinojo is heading that way.”

“Eh?”

“That’s all I have to say — Kanon, Norn, hurry up. We’re departing.”

After Miri said that, Kanon and Norn could not go against her order as they hopped onto Fenrir who was laying down on his belly waiting.

Then, as soon as Fenrir howled once, it ran off towards the south instantly and Haru and the others couldn’t see them anymore.

“Port Kobe ... Master is there?”

Haurvatat digested Miri’s words and looked towards the southern sky.

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On the other hand, Miri and the others who were running.

“Miri-chan, I actually wanted to introduce everyone to you.”

Norn shouted loudly while making sure to not bite her own tongue.

However, Miri answered her as she maintained her gaze forward.

“I know them even if you don’t introduce them to me. I’ve been to the Cat Sith village some dozens of years ago after all —”

“Not that, Onii-san’s companion —”

“I know that too ... Haurvatat and Saku Marina right?”

“” ... Eh?””

The two of them raised their voices.

That’s right, Miri knew both their names.

She heard about them from Sheena No.3 as Ichinojo had mentioned them to her before and above all else —

(Saku Marina — she came to this world after all. And also Haurvatat)

Miri clenched her fist tightly and muttered in her heart.

(I don't want to kill them if possible ... but.)

(177) Epilogue

A night had passed since the battle with the Leviathan.

Carol had completely recovered while I — even though my magical power had not fully recovered from yesterday's usage, my MP was sucked dry by Pionia who spent the whole night making final adjustments to the sailing ship.

My original plan was to take it slow for another day but I wanted to verify something before that.

I opened My World's door below the sailing ship and it fell onto the sea. Carol mentioned that we fled from the Leviathan yesterday during high tide and we were currently approaching low tide so it was unlikely that I would end up opening the door within the sea if I did so now.

After the ship fell through the door, I also followed behind and appeared on the deck of the sailing ship.

Before my eyes was a wide sea and blue sky. And when I look in the opposite direction, stood an island that looked different compared to when I first saw it — but there were no further changes after it suffered from that first attack by the Leviathan.

It seemed like Koshmar-sama's words were true. The Leviathan was dead. By the hands of Demon Lord Famiris•Raritei.

Perhaps, since I came to this world, I had the thinking that I could do anything.

Saving Haru who was about to be bought by an aristocrat, saving Carol from her suffering brought about by her skill, or occasionally challenging thousands or tens of thousands of monsters.

I held a power different from others. Possessing growth speed 400 times that of others and holding 5 jobs where others can only hold 1, I ascended to amazing heights with Jobless while not actually being without a job.

“In the end, I couldn't do anything.”

When I muttered that, Carol, who had imperceptibly also returned to this world, grasped my sleeve.

“No, Carol believes that Demon Lord-san could defeat the Leviathan because Ichino-sama worked hard.”

” ... That might be true. But that is merely judgment drawn from hindsight ...”

It's all right since the Demon Lord defeated the Leviathan. 'All's well that ends well', I believe that is also a valid way of thinking.

But, what would have happened if the Demon Lord was one step late?

My immature power failed to defeat the Leviathan and in the process, I exposed Carol to danger due to my conceit. That fact doesn't change even if the result was good.

“Ichino-sama — what do you plan to do with the Jobless job?”

Carol asked.

What are my plans — in other words, she was asking if I would continue holding the Jobless job.

” ... I think I will keep it like this — Carol will ... probably be against it.”

It was still impossible for me to make a choice.

It's better to be strong but while I feel that it is sufficient as long as I am strong enough to protect my companions, Koshmar-sama also mentioned it.

When my Jobless levels up next time, there is no telling what kind of skill will I acquire.

It might harm me — no, not only me. There's a possibility it will pose a danger to Haru, Carol, and Marina who travel with me.

However — I was unable to shake the feeling that the Jobless skills have some kind of special meaning.

And rather than not do anything, I would not have come to the deserted island if not for the mysterious skill I got when I reached Lv90. Given that I was transported to the island directly before the Leviathan revived, it was obvious that it wanted me to do something.

Although, I cannot tell if the intention was good or bad.

Nevertheless, I must find out the meaning behind this Jobless job — I felt that it was my duty.

“Now then, let’s set off — let’s adjust towards the wind’s direction — ”

“Ichino-sama. Carol will adjust the sail so please take the wheel, Ichino-sama — firstly, please steer us towards the north.”

“OK! Advance full speed to the north!”

The sail received the wind and the ship sailed towards the north.

Towards Port Kobe.

At that time, I did not imagine that I would reunite with the girl I thought I would never see again in this life.